LETTERS

TO A

WIFE,

BY

THE AUTHOR OF

CARDIPHONIA

Cara Maria, vale f at veniet felicius zvum, Quando iterum tecum, fim modo dignus, ero. Low The-

A prudent wife is from the Lord.

PROV. xix. 14.

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1793.

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LETTERS

TO A

WIFE.

VOL. I.

WRITTEN DURING

THREE VOYAGES TO AFRICA,

From 1750 to 1754.

---O laborum
Dulce lenimen-!

Hor.

They that go down to the sea in ships, that do business in great waters; these see the works of the Lord, and his wonders in the deep.

Ps. cvii. 23, 24.

PREFACE

WHEN, after repeated checks of conscience, i obthnacely broke through all restraines of religion, it pleased God, for a time, to give one up to my own wilfulnets and fully, peth much for an ever odw Alstraid or Door creature edid not finall he way, of cranfgrellers is alway It proved-ford nio. The diseries, into which I plunged myfelf, could only be, exceeded, by the discadful wickedness of my hears, and life, At length, I was driven to the definerate decemination, of living upon the coast of Africas My dilacipal relidence, was arthe Plantanes, an illand at the mouth of

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PREFACE.

Mission Strategy on the wandwards

WHEN, after repeated checks of conscience, I obstinately broke through all restraints of religion, it pleased God, for a time, to give me up to my own wilfulness and folly; perhaps as much fo, as ever poor creature was given up to himself, who did not finally perish. The way of transgreffors is always hard. It proved fo to me. The miseries, into which I plunged myself, could only be exceeded, by the dreadful wickedness of my heart, and life. At length, I was driven to the desperate determination, of living upon the coast of Africa. My principal residence, was at the Plantanes, an island at the mouth of VOL. I. the

about twenty leagues, S. E. from Sierra de Leon. Some account, of this mournful part of my early life, has been long in print.

The coast of Guinea, is a country, from whose bourn, few travellers, who have once ventured to fettle there, ever return. But God, against whom I had sinned with a high hand, was pleased to appoint me, to be a fingular instance of his mercy. He not only spared me, but watched over me, by his merciful Providence, when I feemed to be bent upon my own destruction; and provided for my deliverance from my wretch-To him, who has all hearts our ed thraldom! in his hands, I ascribe it, that a friend of my father's, the late Mr. Joseph Manesty, a merchant of Liverpool, to whom I was then an utter stranger, directed the captain

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of one of his ships, to enquire for me; and, if he could, to bring me home. This propods. pofal for my deliverance, no less unexpost pected, than undeferved, by me, reached me at a time, when some circumstances and of my captivity, being, according to my wretched views, and tafte, a little amended, I'at first hesitated to accept it. And I'm believe, had it not been for one confideration, which will be often mentioned, in the course of these letters, I should have lived, and died, in my bondage. When I returned to Liverpool, I found, in Mr. Manefty, a fecond father; he treated me with great kindness, and took upon himself the care of providing for me.

Towards the close of the year 1749,
Mr. Manesty promised me the command
of a ship to Africa, in the ensuing season.
On this promise, (for I had no other de-

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pendance) I ventured to marry, on the first of February sollowing, where my heart had been long engaged. After I had gained my point, I often trembled for my precipitation. For though I am sure, I should have preserved the person I married, to any other woman in the world, though possessed of the mines of Potosi, she had no fortune; and if any thing had happened, to involve her in difficulties, upon my account, I think my strong affection for her, would have made me truly miserable.

I have often thought since, that we were then, like two unexperienced people, on the edge of a wide wilderness; without a guide; ignorant of the way they should take, and entirely unapprised of the difficulties they might have to encounter. But the Lord God, whom, at that time, we knew

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knew not, had mercifully purposed, to be our guide, and our guard.

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The imminent danger, and extreme distress, to which we were reduced by a storm, in my passage from Africa to Liverpool, had, by the mercy of God, made fuch an impression upon my mind, that I was no longer an infidel, or a libertine. had fome ferious thoughts; was confiderably reformed, but too well fatisfied with my reformation. If I had any spiritual light, it was but as the first, faint streaks of the early dawn; and I believe, it was not yet day-break with my dear wife. She was young, cheerful, and much efteemed by her connexions, which were genteel, and numerous. She was not wanting in that decent religion, which is compatible, with the supposed innocent gaities, of a worldly life; and which disposes people, to be visuppord God, whore at that time, w

fpective seasons) at church, and at cards; at the assembly, or theatre, and at the sacrament. Farther than this, she knew not, nor was I qualified to teach her. It is rather probable, that if I could have remained at home, my great attachment to her, would have drawn me into the same path; and that we should have looked no higher for happiness, than to our mutual satisfaction in each other.

But God had designed better things for us. The season for failing approached, and I was constrained to leave her, to take the command, and charge, of my ship. This necessity of being absent from her, which then seemed to me, bitter as death, I have now reason to acknowledge, as one of the chief mercies of my life. Nisi periissem, periissem. If I could have obtained

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have continued with her, I fee, that, humanly speaking, it might have proved the

The fummons I received, to repair to Liverpool, awakened me, as out of a dream. When I was forced from her, I found both leifure, and occasion, for much reflection. My ferious thoughts, which had been almost smothered, began to revive. And my anxiety, with respect to what might possibly happen, while I was abroad, induced me to offer up many prayers for her, before I well knew how to pray for myself. He, who takes notice of the cries of the young ravens in their nefts, was pleased to hear mine. In a word, I foon felt the need of that support, which only religion can give. The feparation likewise, tended on both sides, to give a certain A 4

PREFACE.

certain tenderness, and delicacy, and there in tenderness, and delicacy, and there is left.

by, a permanency to our affection, in the delicacy and there is left.

which might not have flourished to equal advantage, through life, if we had always lived together.

This brief introduction, may possibly throw some light upon several passages, which will occur in the course of my correspondence.

The only expedient, we could then think of, to alleviate the pains of absence, was writing. Letters were accordingly exchanged, by every post, while I staid in England: and when I sailed, and could not expect to hear from ber, for a long time, I still continued to write, on the usual post-days. And this practice afforded me so much relief, and pleasure, that it was not long, before I wrote (if business, and circumstances, would permit) almost every

day,

day, of every week. Few, if any, of my letters, milcarried. The first volume of this publication, is formed, by a selection of extracts, from those which I sent home, during the three voyages I made to Africa. Those in the second, are extracted from a number almost equal, which I wrote when we were occasionally separated, after the good providence of God, freed me from that iniquitous employment, in which I was too long ignorantly engaged, and appointed me a settlement on shore.

When I first undertook this painfully pleasing task, I had not the least thought, of the letters appearing in print so soon. I intended them for a posthumous legacy, to my friends, and to the public. But, in the progress of the work, my objections to publishing them myself, were gradually weakened; and I became more willing, to erect,

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Mrs.

of a valuable, and much valued woman, in my own life time. The only justifiable plea I can alledge, for printing these letters at all, is a hope, that, by the bleffing of God, they may be made useful to some of my readers; and, if this hope be not ill-founded, the sooner they appear, the better. Some testimony, in favour of the happiness of wedded life; some intimation of the snares, and abatements, which attend it, seems not unseasonable, in the present day. And perhaps, I am, by experience, qualified to be as unexceptionable a witness, in both respects, as most men.

I am aware, that I shall expose myself to the charge of egotism; but this, I
may cheerfully submit to, if my heart does
not deceive me, with respect to my motives,
and proposed end. Neither the censures,

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nor the praises of men, ought to have an undue influence upon those, who profess to act, with a view to the glory of God, and the benefit of their fellow-creatures. And, as to myself, now far advanced in life, and standing upon the brink of the grave, and of eternity, it does not become me, to be very folicitous, what mortals may fay, or think, of me, either at present, or when I shall cease to be seen among them; provided I am justly chargeable with nothing, unfuitable to my profession, and general character. We must all shortly appear, before the tribunal of the great, unerring judge, the one lawgiver, who is able to fave, or to destroy. Dies iste indicabit. Then the fecrets of all hearts will be unfolded, and every character will appear in its true light. Daging with a man was the band of

Yet, as my letters are of a fingular cal, A 6 and

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and I tread upon rather new, and unbeaten ground, the respect which I owe to my readers, requires me, to request their candid perufal and to fosten if I cary such objections, as I foresee may arise in their minds, (as they may be differently difposed) to different parts of the book.

It is proper to make an apology to the public at large, for the detail of many incidents, which, however interesting to myfelf, especially at the time of writing, are certainly not sufficiently so, to deferve general attention. If I had not suppressed the greater part of these, my two small. volumes, would have fwelled to folios. To have suppressed them all, besides defeating my main defign, would have made the little remainder, appear harsh and stiff; would have given the letters an air of declamation, and have destroyed that freedom,

dom, which is effential to the epiftolary ftyle. It is difficult to diaw the exact? lines and to fix the proper medium; and especially so to me, on a subject in which I am so nearly concerned, and on which, I could not well confult my friends. I have kept this difficulty in view, through the whole, and have acted to the best of my judgment. What fome perfons will blame, others may approve, and my books will be open to all. Befides, as the workings, and emotions, common to the human heart. are much fewer, than the various events, and occasions, that may excite them; fome account of my own feelings, under certain circumstances, may apply to the feelings of others, in their more important affairs. Dan abund run quarioum don out in

To my more serious readers, I may well apologize, for most of the letters of an early

early date; which I should certainly be ashamed of now, if they were printed by themselves. y But as I began to write, about the same time that I began to see; and, in proportion as light increased upon my mind, my letters affumed a graver cast; I was willing to infert such a series, as might mark the progress of that spiritual knowledge, which the Lord taught me to feek, and which, I did not feek entirely in vain. My letters, which at first were trifling, foon became more ferious; and, as I was led into farther views of the principles, and privileges, of the gospel, I endeavoured to communicate to my dear correspondent, what I had received. And in due time, he was pleafed to make them a mean of affecting ber heart, and impressing her with the same desires, and de to entre up granqua has baaims.

ficiently adore, and praise him. comediant

If they, who think lightly of marriage, or who chiefly engage in it upon interested motives, preferring the wealth, and pomp, and glare of the world, to a union of hearts; if fuch persons, should treat all that I have written upon the subject, as folly, rant, and enthusiasm, I cannot help it. To them, I owe no apology. I only hope they will not be angry with me, for expressing a friendly wish, that they might be, even as I was; excepting the heartachs, and inquietudes, that I fometimes felt; which I confidered, as a price paid (and I thought the purchase not dear) for my farisfaction. Long experience, and much observation, have convinced me, that the marriage state, when properly formed, and prudently conducted, affords power the

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the nearest approach to happiness, (of a merely temporal kind) that can be attained, in this uncertain world; and which will best abide the test of sober reslection.

To infidels, sceptics, and libertines, if fuch should be among the number of my readers, I cannot expect, that any apology of mine, for what might be justly exceptionable, would be either acceptable, or fufficient. They will be glad, if they can pick out any fentiments, either false or trivial, to exhibit as specimens of the whole. Yet I have fomething to fay to them; not in a spirit of defiance, but of meekness. These characters were once, Had my abilities, and alas! my own. opportunities, been equal to the depraved tafte of my heart, I should have rivalled Voltaire himself. My own experience convinces me, that nothing short of a divine power,

power, can forten that mind, which, after having stifled repeated checks of conscience, has renounced revelation, and is hardened like steel, by infidelity. I know the gall and bitterness, the effects, and the awful danger, of that state. Such persons are entitled to my compassion, and my prayers; if peradventure, it may please God to give them repentance, to the acknowledgment of the truth. It is not the smallest evil, resulting from this malignant poison, that they, who are infected by it, cannot be content with going on, in their own way, alone; but usually labour, with a zeal, almost equal to that of a martyr, to draw others into the same path. There is a fomething within them, which will, at times, remonstrate, and recoil, in defiance of their utmost efforts. At such seafons, (like children in the dark) unless they have

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have company, their spirits will stag. This prompts them to employ, every art of soup phistry, and dissimulation, to gain prosemalytes. And blow mall allows

Historical deductions, and learned arguments, are not necessary, to evince the truth of the gospel. It proves its own importance, by its obvious tendency, and by its uniform effects. Let a thinking man suppose, for a moment, that the motives, hopes, and rules, proposed in the New Testament, were to be universally understood, cordially embraced, and strictly observed, to-morrow; the fure consequence, that a change, equally universal, in the general habits, tempers, and pursuits of mankind, would likewife, to-morrow, take place, must force itself upon his mind. The wilderness would become a garden: fraud, violence, discord, opprefdiller of fionfion, and profligacy, would inftantly cease: order, justice, peace, benevolence, and every branch of morality, would instantly flourish. Men would live as brethren. and treat each other, as they could equitably expect to be treated themselves, in similar cases. Such are the actual effects, where the gospel is truly received. How many, who, like the man possessed with a legion, or like me, were miserable and mischievous, a burden to themselves, and to their friends, and a nuisance in the community, have been, and still are, brought to their right minds; rescued from the tyranny of contending, inordinate passions, and taught to fill up their places in fociety, with decorum, and usefulness! The gofpel, thus embraced, is presently found, to be exactly fuited to the wants, defires, and forebodings, of the human heart. It adds a relish

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a relish to all the comforts of life; dibrighted reverse of affictions; affords
minishes the pressure of affictions; affords
qui or elderformonu siel it anida yeal
a balm for every wound, a cordial for
ewery care; and enables the believer to
every care; and enables the believer to
entry the same and enables the believer to
the same death, with composure, dignity, and
hope.

How ungenerous then, how cruel, are they, who endeavour to rob us of this precious depositum; when they have nothing to propose as a substitute to But, blessed be God, their attempts are no less vain, than desperate. They may blind the eyes of a few, but they cannot deprive the sun of its light.

Such is the power of guilt, and fear, to alienate the mind from God, that they, who would tremble to be feated in a carriage, drawn by unruly horses, with no one to manage the reins, are reduced, to deny a governing providence of God, over all his

his creatures, and especially over mankind. They think it less uncomfortable to suppole, that the contingencies to which we are liable, in luch a world as this, are the mere, unavoidable result of second causes, than that they are under the direction of him, whose almighty power, is combined with infinite wisdom, and goodness. For they know and feel, that, if there be a God, if he be wife and good, and if he takes cognizance of the hearts, and actions, of men, they have every thing to dread. From persons of this stamp, I can expect no favour. I once thought, or wished, as they do; but the divine Providence, which I long denied, and defied, convinced me of my error, by multiplied, merciful interpolitions in my behalf. May the like mercy and compassion, be extended to voserning providence of God, over all

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I return from this digression. My aller views, in sending these letters abroad, are under this chiefly four:

which I owe, to the God of my life, for giving me such a treasure; for uniting our hearts by such tender ties, and for continuing her to me so long.

2. As a monument of respect, and gratitude, to her memory. She was my pleasing companion, my most affectionate friend, my judicious counsellor. I seldom or ever repented, of acting according to her advice. And I seldom acted against it, without being convinced by the event, that I was wrong.

3. I hope to fliew, by the most familiar kind of proof, example, that marriage, when

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when the parties are united by affection, and and the general conduct is governed by salw religion, and prudence, is not only an honourable, but a comfortable state of But, wary from what I have felt, and what I have feen, I am well affured that religion, hy which I mean, the fear of God, a regard inw to his precepts, and a dependance upon win his care, is absolutely necessary, to make the us comfortable, or happy, even in the possession of our own wishes. The fairest prospects, unless founded upon this basis, butter may be compared to a house, built upon the fand, which may feem to answer, for a time, while the weather is fine; but which, when tried by the storms and floods, the changes and calamities, inseparable from he present state of things, will, sooner or ater, fall; and involve the builders, in confusion and distress.

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4. I likewise hope, that my example may prove a warning to others, who set out with warm hopes of satisfaction; to be cautious of an over-attachment to their creature-comforts. Hinc ille Lacryme. My sharpest trials, and my most pungent causes for repentance, and humiliation, through life, sprung from this source!



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FIRST VOYAGE TO AFRICA.

St. Alban's, 19 May.

MY DEAREST,

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I could have reached Dunflable to night, but I remembered that you had defired me not to ride late.

I think, I fully obeyed you, in not faying much when I took my leave. My
heart was really too full; and had I been
more able, the fear of increasing your uneasiness, would have prevented me. Were
I capable of describing all the tender senVol. I. B timents

ed, an indifferent person would allow me to be master of the pathetic. But I cannot express what I feel. Do me the justice to believe my affection goes beyond any words I can use.

I purpose to set off early to-morrow, and to attend service at church somewhere on the road; which I do not care to miss without necessity. But now I am particularly desirous of improving the first opportunity to implore, in a solemn manner, the protection of Divine Providence, that we may be savoured with a happy meeting.

"Gracious God! favour me and my dearest M— with health, and a moderate share of the good things of this life. Grant that I may be always happy in her love, and always prove deserving of it! For the rest, the empty gewgaws and gilded trisses, which engage the thoughts of multitudes; I hope I shall be always able to look upon them with indifference."

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I make no apology for this ferious strain. Believe me I write experimentally; and, to the degree that I love you, I could not bear to be torn from you in this manner, if I was not supported by my principles; which teach me, that I ought to be not only content, but thankful, that things are so well with me as they are; and to expect no pleasure in this life, without fome abatement. I believe there may be persons who can keep themselves in tolerable good humour, by the strength of their own minds, in a course of prosperity; but when croffes and disappointments take place, or when they are constrained to part from what they hold most dear, if they cannot call in religion to their aid, they usually fink and despond. At least I have always found it so.

I have a good horse and a good road, and pretty good spirits likewise, considering that the more haste I make, the more I increase my distance from you. But when I reslect, that now your interest as

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I can fearcely go fast enough.

I am likely to perform the whole journey alone; but I want no company. It will always be a full entertainment to me, to recollect how very happy I have been in yours, and to animate myself with the pleasing hope, that in due time, I shall be so again.

in tolerable good humour, befine Pronch

I am, &c.

Inviolably yours.

Liverpool, 27 May.

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I was forced to defer writing for long on Friday, that I was constrained to leave a thousand things unsaid. I therefore begin now in time. When you write next (which I beg may always be by return of post) let me know at what hours you usually rise, breakfast, dine, sup, and go to bed, that I may keep time with you, or, at least, attend you with my thoughts, if I should be otherwise engaged.

I cannot

I cannot inform you that I have a ship yet; no one offers at present which Mr. M— thinks good enough. Oh, that it was possible for you to go with me, where I go, to cheer and enliven me amidst fatigues and difficulties, without sharing in them! How light would they then seem to me! But I submit. At least, happen what may, it will give me pleasure to think that my better, dearer part, is in safety at home.

I have now received yours of the 24th, and kiffed it a hundred times! I beg you, not to give way to uneasy apprehensic as for me: for while you are well and easy, I am as happy as I wish to be, during my absence from you. I should be forry to find this absence become more easy to me by time. Let it suffice that I eat, drink, and sleep well, and am in health and spirits to do every thing that may appear necessary to procure us a future happy interview.

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when alone, the recollection of the past, almost overpowers me with a tender concern; but do not be grieved for me, for I find a pleasure in the indulgence of such thoughts, which I would not part with upon any less consideration, than that of being actually with you. I have written myself into tears now, and yet I feel a serenity and fatisfaction, of which, till I could call you mine, I had no perception. I cannot bemoan your absence, without remembering, at the fame time, how happy, and how long happy I have been with you. This is a kind of bank stock, a treasure of which I cannot be deprived. And while I retain the recollection, that I have been so happy, I cannot be quite uncomfortable. But why do I fay, I once was?—I am fo still; for the consciousness that you love me, is a present, and permanent comfort, and will be fo, at all times, and in all places. Your love was my principal defire; and without it, all that you had besides in your power to bestow.

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bestow, would have been dult and in-

Since you have kindly promifed to write by every post, I wish we had a post every day.

Liverpool, 29 June.

Though, at taking up the pen, I have not a fingle sentence ready, I expect something will soon occur, when I write to you. I am going to set you a pattern, how to fill a sheet with nothing, or what is little better than nothing. But as I know you will make savourable allowances, I am content to appear at a disadvantage: I can submit that you should find tautologies and incoherence to excuse, provided I give you no cause to think me ungrateful.—

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—Do not think of me as suffering or grieving—rather consider how happy you have made me, and that you have put me into a situation, from which I can look

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upon princes without envy; and that notwithstanding my regret for parting with you for a season, I would not change circumstances with any man in the kingdom. Of the many temporal blessings for which I am indebted to a Gracious Providence, I set a higher value upon none than this, that I was formed with a heart capable of tender and disinterested affection, and directed to you, for the object of it.

I am entirely yours.

Liverpool, 10 July.

I MUST be up late to-night to attend the tide; but by writing to you, I can agreeably fill up the time, which might otherwise seem tedious.

I pity those who must sly to company and noise, to fill up their vacant hours; and must be always changing the scene, though often for the worse. Whereas I, when I am most retired and solitary, by directing my thoughts to you, have more pleasure

pleasure than they can conceive of in their gayest moments! I say this, the more assuredly, because I have formerly been on the other side of the question; and have sought satisfaction, in that manner of life, with so much earnestness, that I should, at least sometimes, have sound it, had it really been to be met with. But I can scarcely recollect an hour of my past life, with any pleasure, excepting the time I have passed in your company, and for that I think the innumerable troubles and sufferings I previously underwent, not a dear purchase.

I was on shipboard this morning till past two o'clock. The weather was perfectly serene, the moon shone bright, and having nothing from within, or without, to discompose me, I passed the hours pleasantly, in thinking of you. It was with great satisfaction, I indulged the hope that you were then in a gentle slumber, under a safe and sure protection, and as free from inquietudes as myself. I then

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imagined the scene changing to what I must, in a little time, expect; when dark nights, heavy rains, violent winds, mountainous feas, and awful thunder, will fometimes all combine to alarm me. But this anticipation gives me no uneafiness at present; for even then, I shall hope, that my dearer, better part, will be as calm and undiffurbed, as fhe is now. And as to the other half of myfelf, now on board the Duke of Argyle, it may be pleased with the expectation of an ample amends at the completion of the voyage. I shall probably at such times often repeat to myfelf a part of the verses which I addreffed to you at a time when I had little hope of obtaining the happiness I attempted to describe. They were then therefore a mere rant, but they now express my settled judgment and choice.

These threat'ning seas, where wild confusion reigns,
And yawning dangers all around appear,
I value more than groves or flow'ry plains,
Since 'tis the only way that leads to her.

Believe

Believe me, I should think it well worth the trouble of another journey to London, to have an interview with you, if only for a quarter of an hour. But it must not be, and I submit.

You either misunderstood the latter part of my letter, or I expressed myself awkwardly, which is most likely. I did not mean to say that you were wanting in religion*; I said, or meant to say, that as I thought myself not wanting in love, when I first offered you my heart, and yet found afterwards, that my notion of it has been greatly enlarged by a more intimate relation to you; so it might be a happy circumstance if we could be reciprocally helpful in improving each other's ideas of religion. If I seemed to take the upper hand, and affect the dictating strain, I ask your pardon. I ought to be sensible

^{*} Alas! neither of us had much sense of religion at that time. She was my idol, and perhaps I was hers. We looked little further for happiness than to each other.

that I am not qualified for it, and to be more ready to learn than to teach.

16444 August and a manta society best

Lamench I Tora o

I am, &c. Yours.

Liverpool, 20 July.

I RECEIVED your welcome letter of the 17th, which, when I had read it about twenty times over, furnished me with many pleasing reflections; and led me to compare my present state, with the low insipid life I must have led, even in the most affluent circumstances, if my sincere love had not obtained the only adequate prize, a reciprocal affection from you.

I am still of opinion, that at first, compassion and generosity induced you to think favourably of me. It did not suit with your temper to be unaffected by the pain and uneasiness of any one, much less of one, who though under a thousand disadvantages, you had reason to believe, really loved you. And, if I am not mistaken, you used some constraint with yourself, in the

the beginning, to bring your inclination to coincide with the power you had to make me happy. Thus I thought when I received your hand in marriage. Yet I was no less easy and secure, than if I had made the most successful improvement of our long acquaintance, in gaining your heart. For I knew you too well to sear that after you had gone so far, you would stop short, till your affection was equal to my own.

I was pretty well affured in my own mind, that I should make it the chief business, or rather pleasure, of my life, to study and seize every opportunity of obliging you; and I was no less certain, that the most trivial instance of such an intention, would not be overlooked by you, or lost upon you. The event has answered my expectation. I have now the same considence that you love me, as that I love you. A considence, which I would not exchange for any consideration the world could offer. A considence, which renders

me superior to all the little entertainments that would allure me while I am here; and which I hope will fatisfy and cheer me, when, in a few days, I shall leave them all behind me. I long to be gone, for, after parting with you, all scenes will be equally indifferent to me, till the happy hour of our reunion.

I thank you for your promise of writing weekly, and you may depend upon my not being behindhand with you. But remember there is no regular post from Africa, and that the length of the passage of a ship is very precarious. I hope therefore you will not indulge discouraging thoughts, if you should not hear from me so soon as you may expect.

The weather has been dark and rainy. It is some time since I saw the north star *.

When

^{*} With this view we agreed upon an evening hour, as a little relief in absence, when we were to look at the north-star, if the sky was clear, and be pleased with the probability that we might both be looking at it at the

When I am at fea, I shall watch it, at the hour we agreed upon, that I may have the pleasure of thinking that sometimes our eyes and thoughts are fixed upon the fame object.

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I am, &c. Yours. olbiad a neilletone vill told einis kia

er successions as well

Liverpool, 29 July. I THINK, if I stay here much longer, I must adopt your method, and follow a long letter with a very short one. For though I always take pleasure in writting, I begin to be ashamed of sending you little more than repetitions. I have expressed my affection (so far as my knowledge of words can express) in so many different forms and phrases, that I am quite at a loss for new ones. I must either write but little, as you do, or to little

the same minute. We knew but little then of the throne of Grace, the central point, at which all who love the Lord duly meet (at whatever local distance) with him, and with each other.

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purpose, unless I begin again, as from the first; and in that case I believe my second round of letters would be very similar to the former, because I write from my feelings. My heart dictates every line.

And though my head often interposes, and observes that this expression is hardly grammar, the next not well turned, the third unnecessary, and so on; yet heart perfifts in his own way, and whatever occurs to him goes down upon the paper, in defiance of head's wife remonstrances. The contention arises fometimes to such a height, that head tells heart, he raves and is an enthusiast. And heart calls head a conceited pedant, whose narrow views are confined to a little nicety and exactness in trifles, because he is a stranger to the emotions of love. As you know which fide of the debate I favour, I need not tell you that when my strains are dull, it is none of poor heart's fault, who always does his best to please; but because head refuses to affift him, and leaves us both to shift for

for ourselves; though I often tell him, that I will neither regard heart, head, nor hands, unless they all consider themselves as belonging to you, and ready at all times for your service, as myself. It seems wrong to say, a man has his heart in his mouth, when he is in great sear. I think he may properly be said to have his heart in his mouth, when he is capable of relating in suitable terms what really affects him. So had I my heart at my singers ends, I should perhaps write a letter worthy of your perusal. Till then I must beg you to accept what I send, because it is the best I have.

I am yours, &c.

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Liverpool, 31 July.

I was kept some little time in sufpense for yours of the 28th, which made it, if possible, more welcome when it came. Yet I am sorry that I hinted any thing

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thing to give you an anxious thought upon my account. The pain I complained of in my head, or a much more severe one, would be vastly more tolerable to me, than to hear that you are made uneasy. If it had not been a common thing, and usually soon over, I should not have mentioned it; but was unwilling to be guilty of a short letter, without assigning the true reason. I am much concerned that you should have such a weight upon your mind, and beg you, by all the regard you have for me, to strive against it.

If my dearest M—— will permit me to offer my best advice, and which I propose as a rule to mysels—it is this—To endeavour to cast all your care upon Him, who has promised to care for us, if we will but put our trust in him. I long attempted to apply the specious maxims of philosophy, to soften the cares and trials of life, but I found them ineffectual and sale; or however they might have soothed some of the most ordinary and trivial inquietudes;

quietudes; yet I am very fure, that under this aggravated circumstance of separation from you, I should be miserable and without support, if religion did not affift me with nobler and more powerful motives of confolation. I go from you with the less regret, because I leave you in the hands of Him who is able, and I trust willing, to preserve you from all evil, and to make every thing easy to you. And I look forward to the various scenes of my intended voyage with cheerfulness, because I am sensible that in the most remote inhospitable climes, a protecting Providence will furround me; and is no Iess to be depended on in the most apparent dangers, than in the greatest seeming fecurity.

Let me again and again intreat you not to give way to melancholy; affure me that you will strive to be cheerful, or I protest I shall be unwilling to laugh, or even to smile, lest I should happen to be unseasonably merry when you are sad.

Scarcely

Scarcely any thing will inspire me with so much life and spirit, as the hope that you still possess that cheerfulness which used to be so engaging and so natural to you. Let me not have to charge myself with having fpoiled your temper, unless you mean to frighten me indeed. I remember that before you quite consented to marry, you told me that I was preffing you to a life, in which you should often regret the condition of happy M. C. And I endeavoured to perfuade you, that you would only change pleasures, not lose them. I hope, if you will but help me by keeping up your spirits, I shall be able to make my words good. It will furely be my constant study to approve myfelf.

Your obliged, affectionate, and grateful, &c. 01

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unfealonably meny when you see fad. THIS.

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more farewell. I need not put you in

THIS, I hope, will go on shore by the pilot-boat, to inform you that I am now at sea, and with a prospect of a fair wind. I should be in high spirits, but that the thought of being fo many months at an uncertainty with respect to you, fostens me into tears. And your favour of the 16th, which I received last night, has renewed my anxiety for you. Let me beg of you to be as cheerful as possible, and to believe that the good Providence which, after a long feparation, brought us together last year, when we were less interested in each other. will again join us to our mutual fatisfaction. Once more, my dearest, farewell! May the good God bless you with health and peace, and reftore me, at a proper time, to your arms; and for what is to take place in the interval, I would make no conditions, but leave all to him.

nower.

I cannot

I cannot feal my letter without one more farewell. I need not put you in mind of writing by every probable opportunity. I press to my lips the paper that will be with you in a few days, while I must be kept from you for many months. Adieu.

I am yours, &c.

Ramfay, I. Man, 24 August.

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I could not have greater pleasure than in the opportunity which now offers me of relieving your uneasiness on my account. We have already met with unfavourable winds and weather. Particularly a violent gale last night, and in a narrow, dangerous navigation. The weather likewise was thick and dark. My own caution and diligence would soon have been of little use; the wind blew so that we could not carry our sails, and there was no friendly port within our power.

power. But my dependance upon God's Providence kept me in tolerable peace. I was relieved by the same consideration which I believe distressed my shipmates, I mean, that we could do nothing surther.

I felt a persuasion, that if not so soon as we could wish, yet before it was too late, some alteration would take place in our favour. Accordingly, this morning the weather cleared up, and the wind abated, and enabled me to put into this place; where we anchored about two in the afternoon. The wind now rages more than before, and had we continued this night at sea, the consequence (humanly speaking) might have been fatal.

I readily inform you of the danger we have been in, now it is happily over; and hope you will not be alarmed because I am still liable to the like; but rather be comforted with the thought, that in the greatest difficulties the same Great Deliverer is always present. The winds and

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the leas obey him. I endeavour, in every scene of distress, to recollect the seasons in my past life, in which, when I have given myself up for loft, I have been unexpectedly relieved. Infrances of this kind have been frequent with me, some of them perhaps as remarkable as any that have been recorded. Particularly my prefervation in the Greyhound in the year 48, which can only be accounted for by an immediate and almost miraculous interpolition of Divine Power. Then I apply the argument of David-The God who delivered me from the paw of the lion, and from the paw of the bear, will also deliver me from this Philistine. The God who preferved me from finking and starving (from both more than once), who raised me friends among strangers, when I had difgusted all my own by my follies; and above all, who has not only afforded me the necessaries of life, but indulged my foftest wishes, obviated the many hindrances in my way, and made 1 .50 vme Ma Of

me happy in you—furely it would be not only ungrateful but unreasonable, to diftrust him now, who has done so much for me hitherto.

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I would be almost content, that you should be indifferent concerning me, during my absence, provided your love might revive upon my return; that so you might experience all the pleasing, and be exempted from all the painful sensations of a married state. But then I must not know it; for I could hardly bear the noise and impertinence of the world, were I not enlivened by believing myself to be often upon your thoughts.

I confeis, at some times, I can hardly acquit myself from the charge of selfishness, that, for my own gratification, I should so earnestly press you to make your peace of mind dependant upon me. That you should be unhappy, and that I should be the occasion of it, would be painful to me indeed! But, I thank God, all is well hitherto; and if you (as I doubt not) will Vol. I.

kindly accept my utmost endeavours to oblige you, on our future happy meetings, as a compensation for the anxiety you must now and then suffer, I hope I have not done wrong.

At Sea, 3 September.

I WROTE you three letters, while in Ramfay Bay, but could not fend the laft on shore. We sailed from thence the 29th August. The fair wind lasted but one day, which was not fufficient to run us clear of the land, and I had some trouble and fatigue till Saturday, when we got a breeze that has brought us into what the failors call sea-room. The wind is now contrary again, but I have reason to be thankful we are so well as we are. at present little more than a gentlemanpaffenger; I shall, perhaps, have little care upon my head till we arrive in Africa, then I may expect care and trouble in abundance;

abundance; but all will be welcome upon your account. Therefore, while I have leifure, I shall appropriate an hour every two or three days (sometimes, perhaps, daily) for writing to you, that I may have a sizeable packet ready at a short warning.

At Sea, 10 September.

THERE is a strange mixture of pleasure and pain in the life I now lead. When
I think of the regard which you express in
your letters (one of which in their course
I re-peruse every post day) I feel a satisfaction which no wealth could buy from
me. But when I think of the uneasiness
it causes you, I could almost bear to
be forgotten. I know I have said this
often, but I must repeat it when you
write in a melancholy strain. You charge
me, in that which I have now at my lips,
with making hours seem more tedious to
you than days and weeks did formerly.

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I am forry. I beg you to strive to be cheerful.

Though I feel absence painful indeed, I do not deserve much pity, because I am absent for your sake. I am likewise engaged in active business, and have some new scene offering every day, to relieve my mind; besides, I have been long used to fuffer, and did not begin to know what peace or pleasure meant till I married you. On the contrary, you, by marriage, exposed yourself to cares and anxieties to which you was before a stranger; and you have done enough to make me happy, if I could be happy alone, but that is impoffible. Unless you are happy likewise, money, pleasure, health, nay love itself, will not make me amends. plody dat bus

so spring the bland the Seas 14 September La

Last post day I finished a large sheet, and did not leave room to write my name,

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for I had crowded 181 lines into it. Should this come first to your hand, you may wonder where I could find fubject matter. Nothing (necessary business excepted) feems deferving my attention but religion and love; the one my constant support, the other my constant solace: and was I not favoured with some taste for these, I should find a settled gloom in my heart, though placed in the gayeft scenes of life. For at the age of 25, I have feen enough to force my affent to the confession which experience extorted from Solomon in his latter days, All is vanity and vexation of spirit. I mean all that can be possessed exclusive of these two principles; but under their regulation the scene is changed, and the whole creation blooms with beauty.

Religion, rightly understood, is doubtless sufficient of itself to bear us through all the changes of this world, and guide us to a better. But our Gracious Master has made us capable of tender and social af-

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fections, to add to the comfort of the prefent life. I know nothing that is required of us as a duty, but what is both confiftent with our happiness, and has a tendency to promote it. Nor is there a fingle gratification prohibited, that is not, in its natural consequences productive of pain or But you will fay, why all this to you? You are guilty of no excess (except your partial regard to me may be deemed one). I answer, it was a grateful reflection on the goodness of God, and a sense of what I owe him, especially for giving you to me, directed my pen; and to whom could I so properly address these thoughts as to your dear felf, fince to you I am fecondarily indebted for my present peace?

At Sea, 18 September

I suppose that I am now about half way to Sierra Leon, and not less than fifteen hundred miles from my dearest—a great distance,

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decine. When he was inch in the Carer-

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distance, and hourly increasing! But it is not sufficient to divide you from my thoughts. I have read three more of your letters, and as often as I take them in hand, I have a pleasure in the repeated marks of your affection, which nothing elfe could afford. Although I am obliged to go to fea, and what is more, to Guinea, I would not change conditions with the most wealthy bachelor on shore. No fox-hunter can follow his hounds with more alacrity than I now traverse the pathless ocean in quest of a country which, but for your fake, I should be as earnest to avoid. I am obliged to you, not only for the happiness I have found and hope to find at home, but for a pleasure while abroad, in what would otherwise be very unpleasant. When I left Africa, in the Greyhound, I feemed resolved never to return thither again; but my resolution was formed when I had no hope that you would ever make it worth my while; and I knew that nothing elfe could. But upon Maowarth C 4 the-

the encouragement (though flender) which you gave me when I arrived there in the Brownlow, every thing appeared with a different aspect. And though, perhaps, few persons, in the same space of time, have met with more dangers and hardships than I then did, I believe no one heard me complain; because, what I had, in view upon the end of the voyage, so fixed my thoughts, that I could confider nothing as a real hardship, that had a probability of being acknowledged and rewarded by you; I ventured all upon your honour, and was not disappointed. If the bare hope of your love was fuch a support, judge, if you can, how the proofs I have fince obtained of it must influence me !

At Sea, 16 Odober.

I AM much obliged to Mr. Addifon, from whom I took the hint of setting apart stated times for writing to you, and reviewing h

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reviewing your dear letters. This expedient is a great relief in your absence. When I awake in the morning, if it be what I call a post-day, I am no less pleased than children are with the thoughts of a incrementation and approximately fair-day.

We have not yet seen the land, but I deem myself within one hundred miles of the Bananas, which is the first place I propose to call at. There I spent a part of my wretched time of thraldom, of which you have often heard me fpeak.

Little did I think in my forrowful days there, when I went almost naked, so that my skin in many parts of my body has been bliftered by the heat of the funwhere fometimes I have not had half a good meal in the course of a month, where I was reduced fo low as

I fay, little did I think that I should foon revisit that place in a state to excite the envy of those, who would once have

⁻ to be the fport of flaves, Or what's more wretched yet, their pity .-

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scorned to let me sit in the same house with them. Still less had I reason to hope that you, whom, in the midst of my diffres, I passionately loved, would requite me as you have done. With fuch a hope I could have born all pretty well. But Providence was mercifully intent to make my fituation completely miferable for a time, in order to preserve me from that utter ruin, into which my folly and wickedness might otherwise have plunged me. I have nothing now to ask, but a disposition to be thankful to Him, the author, and to you, the appointed inftrument and mean, of my recovery. I can now look with pity upon all that the vulgar account great and honourable, pity poor kings, as fincerely as I do a poor beggar; and confider wit, learning, and fame, likewise as mere trifles, compared with our mutual love, which may it pleafe God to continue, I was going to fay to increase, but that is unnecessary.

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to them and at anony A Sea, 19 October. This morning we discovered the land of Guinea. It is exactly four months from the day I took my mournful leave of you. I hope my next post-day's pleasure will be dated from my intended port. The passage from England has not been the shortest, but remarkably pleasant, and free from disaster.

Last night we were disturbed by a tornado, which I believe I have told you is a violent squall of wind, accompanied with heavy rain, thunder and lightning. darkness of the night added to the horror of the scene. But with proper care, under the bleffing of Providence, thefe boifterous visitants, though very troublesome, are feldom dangerous; nor do they often last above an hour. At thefe times my mind is generally calm, when every body, and everything, is in confusion around me; which is in a great measure owing to my

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fense of your love, and a hope that you are sleeping in safety. If it please God to permit me a happy return to you, a short interval will fully recompense me for the inconveniencies of a whole voyage; and all the rest will be clear gain.

If I do but win your acknowledgment, that I am not guilty of the stupid ingratitude, too common with many of my sex, who undervalue their most desired blessings, merely because they are possessed of them; but that my regard and behaviour, since our marriage, has been answerable to the professions I made beforehand—I say, if you believe this, I shall think nothing hard or troublesome, that may confirm your good opinion of me, which I certainly prefer in itself, to all its pleasing consequences; for I am disinterestedly

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Yours, &c.

fense of your love, and as hope that you

are fleeping in takery. If at please God to

Hod s Woy of a Sierra Leon, Ollober, November.

We arrived here the 24th October; a hurry of business has forced me to pass ten days without writing to you.

Though this country is not England, it does nearly as well for me in your absence; and on the other hand, if you could live here with me, without inconvenience to yourfelf, the gloomy mountains and forests of Sierra Leon would be to me as a Blenheim. They who pity me because I am not fond of what they call pleasure, know not the motives which render me superior to it. I was once no lefs eager after their pleafures than they are now. But you have fo refined my tafte fince, that nothing faort of yourfelf can thoroughly pleafe me.—As it is midnight, I only add my prayers for your peaceful repose. If they man 100 were well, and cake when you wrote.

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do or inder much, to obtain a letter from your, and then relign it unopened.

Santavia Villa Sierra Leon, 8 November.

I wave enclosed you, under another cover, two sheets of the largest paper, full on all sides, containing near four hundred lines; and I have as much more ready to send by the next opportunity. If it please God to continue my health and welfare, my stock will be still increasing, for I generally devote some time, twice a week at least, for writing to you. But, for sear any thing should prevent my packet from reaching you, I commit these sew lines to the care of Mr. M——.

I think, were I allowed two wishes short of the happiness of being with you, the first should be that you might have early information that I am well; and the second, that I might have a letter from you, informing me that you were well, and easy when you wrote. I do not impose upon you by saying, that I prefer your peace to my own. I would

do or fuffer much, to obtain a letter from you; and then refign it unopened, rather than miss one opportunity of writing to you. If I am favoured with any good quality, I think it is a grateful temper, which makes me glad to acknowledge and return the smallest favour I receive, even from an indifferent person. Judge then, what an effect the many endearing obligations I am under to you, heightened by the ardency of my affection, must have upon me! It is upon this principle that I not only fubmit to the scenes in which I am now engaged, with patience, but embrace them with cheerfulness. Had I been able to live always with you, I think I should not have loved you less; but it would not have been in my power to fhew it so much. But I hope, now you find that, for your fake, I can take pleasure in my very pain, you will do me the justice to believe, that the confidence you have reposed in me has not been misplaced. I commend

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commend you, upon my knees, to the bleffing and protection of God.

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ial to my good : If my fittiation, at that

Bananas, 21 November.

I

SINCE I came hither, I have been cruizing about in the boat, in quest of trade, without one leifure evening for writing to you, which has been my chief inconveni-For the viciflitudes of winds and weather, the fcorching days and damp foggy nights, are to me but mere trifles. I have lately had a visit from my quondam black mistress, P. I. [those two letters pronounced diffinctly, and not in one fyllable, as Pi, exactly found her name with whom I lived at the Plantanes. I treated her with the greatest complaisance and kindness; and if she has any shame in her, I believe I made her forry for her former ill treatment of me. I have had feveral fuch occasions of taking the noblest kind 3110

kind of revenge upon persons who once despised and used me ill. Indeed I have no reason to be angry with them; they were, what they little intended, instrumental to my good. If my situation, at that time, had been more savourable, I should probably have missed you. I may say with an old Grecian, If I had not been ruined, I should have been ruined indeed?

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At Sea, 3 December.

Though this is not my post-night, I am willing to write, because I am behind-hand, and because it is the most pleasant way of filling up a leisure hour. It was not inclination, but business, that made me limit myself to twice a week, for it would be an agreeable employment to write to you twice a day, if I had nothing to call me off. But, however my hands and head are engaged, my heart is always with you. It can be but seldom, if at all, that you are

out of my thoughts for five minutes together. Whether I am vifiting, trading, or watching, your idea is ftill before my eyes.

I would give something for such a sympathetic, needle and dial-plate, as is mentioned in the Spectator, that we might be able to correspond without being interrupted by distance. But perhaps I am better without it, for I should hardly attend to any thing else. And we already have what is more valuable, a sympathy of mind and affection. I believe, if we could compare notes, we should find that our thoughts are often engaged in the same manner, at the same time.

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I suppose you have often observed, for I have (and to my credit be it spoken, we think pretty much alike), that what we very much hope for, or fear, more seldom happens than such things as are quite out of our

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our thoughts, and beyond our prevention. An inflance of this lately, I shall mention, by way of change of subject. I went on shore at this place lately, on account of trade; and the next morning walking by the fea fide to look for the ship, the could not be feen. Upon this, I fent off a boat, which returned in the evening and brought me word, that they had been some leagues beyond the place where I left her, but could discern nothing of her. I leave you to judge of my anxiety. I could not account for it, the weather being perfectly fine, and we had too few flaves on board to caufe quite Ecure. any disturbance.

For once, and for a few minutes, I almost wished myself unmarried; for the most sensible part of my trouble was, that whatever difficulties I may meet with, I cannot now suffer alone. I was at length, in some degree, relieved by the dependance which I always endeavour to maintain upon the good Providence which has done so much for me hitherto.

I put to fea with two boats which I had with me, and after failing fome hours diff covered the ship, when I was upon the point of giving up all hope of feeing her again. I foon reached her, and found all well on board. The night I left her had been dark and hazy, she had dragged her anchor, and had flipped to sea, and was carried a good way by the current, unperseived by the watch upon deck, who doubtless had been careless, and perhaps afleen I brought her safely back again yesterday. So that this adventure was only to caution me, and to teach me never to think myfelf quite secure. any differentment. For care, and for a few misutes, I al-

Shebar, 21 December.

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MY DEAREST, A plin on Tonger

Must I imitate the news-writers?
They, in a scarcity of foreign news, rather than fall short of their usual number of paragraphs, entertain their readers with relations

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tions of strange monsters, apparitions, wonderful sights in the air, or terrible hoises under ground. For they take news in the strict sense of the word, to signify any thing that has not been heard of before, whether true or false.

Most of my letters to you remind me of Æsop's seast, which, though consisting of several dishes, were all tongues, only dressed in different ways. Thus whether I write in a grave or a jocular strain, the subject is still Love, Love, which is as inseperable from my idea of you, as heat from that of sire.

arching to you, and praying to the Lorent

blefs you, and to bare me a little los yet

Cape Mount, 31 December.

I SENT you from Sierra Leon two sheets, like the two I now enclose, and I have two more in readiness for the next ship, and I shall think myself happy, if I can employ my leisure to afford you any entertainment. I am apt to grieve at the probability

probability of my voyage proving longer than I expected; but I am foon checked by confidering how much cause I have for thankfulness. For I am in perfect health, and have met with no harm or disappoint-I am informed there is a ment hitherto. thip upon the coast which has letters for me; I hope to be with her in a few days. My mind revives at the expectation; for then I shall be able to boast of a real pleafure in your absence, besides that which I find in writing to you. It is now the last night, and almost the last minute of the year, being very near twelve o'clock. How can I conclude the year better than by writing to you, and praying to the Lord to bless you, and to spare me a little longer to love and deserve you, and to be happy with you?

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Rio Junque, 8 January.

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I was prevented writing on Friday by a violent pain in my head, which was perhaps 4

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haps partly occasioned by not receiving a letter from you. I have one from Mr. M—, dated 24 October. He promised to let you know when he intended to write, but I would hope, for my own peace, he neglected it. For I am sure you would not miss the opportunity, if you were able to hold a pen. I must now wait till I arrive at Antigua. Then I hope to be gratified.

When I meet with any thing cross, or contrary to my wish, I dare not now complain; because in gaining you I secured the principal aim of my life; a real good, which if set in opposition to the little disappointments I meet with from without, outweighs them all. Nor need I envy others their wealth or prosperity, when it is a thousand to one if any of them have such a dear M— as I can call my own. I should therefore be forry to change with the very best of them, in all points, or to part with a small portion of your regard for any worldly consideration.

This

This has been one of the most fatiguing days I have mer with, and therefore, though it is not my regular post, I write a little by way of amends. No one, who has not experienced it like me, can conceive the contraft between my present situation, distracted with the noise of slaves and traders, fuffocated with heat, and almost chop-fallen with perpetual talking; and the fweet agreeable evenings I have passed in your company. But all is welcome for your fake. I shall never forget, and you doubtless well remember, the evening when you first gave me your hand, as an earnest of what has fince followed. How I fat stupid and speechless for some minutes, and I believe, a little embarraffed you by my awkwardness. My heart was so full, it beat and trembled to that degree, that I knew not how to get a word out. I hope I shall never entertain a fainter sense of the invaluable present you then made me; though a greater intimacy has fince reftored to me the use of my tongue. But I am writing in the

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the midst of talkers, and am obliged to answer questions about business, so that my head is too confused to touch upon subjects of this kind, without spoiling them.

between it like me, can conceive the con-

test thether a niverse of those on the

Shebar, 15 February.

WHEN you think any of my effays more confused than usual, (the best need your excuse) I beg you to consider, that I was probably myself sensible that I fhould acquit myfelf but poorly, before I began. Sometimes I am fatigued, at others embarrassed, with the business of the day, or destitute of a subject, or unable to collect my thoughts. But I had rather appear to a disadvantage than recede from a good custom. For though I hope my affection is fixed upon a basis, which no change of circumstance will be able to shake; yet knowing the weakness and inconstancy of human nature, I would be always careful not to omit the finallest outward mark of VOL. I. my

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my regard, left I should in time be so unhappy, as to make it a precedent; and left from being remiss or negligent in one particular, I might at length prove fo in many. For as it is remarked that no man becomes very wicked all at once, I believe it may be the same with a bad husband; that he begins with inattention to smaller faults, and from thence proceeds to commit great-Therefore when you find little else to please you in my letters, I hope they will be agreeable to you, as a proof that, at least, I was not unmindful of you, but willing to shew my attention to you, if not so well as I could wish, yet in the very best manner I was able.

Shebar, 20 February.

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Last night (which made it a remarkable night) I dreamed of you. Methought we were walking together, and mutually hearing and relating many things which had occurred fince our parting. It was

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was a pleasing illusion; but at day-light the noise of the people over my head broke the charm, and reminded me, that for a time, I must submit to a very different scene. But I seemed more resreshed by my dream than I should have been by a longer sleep.

I fometimes wonder that my fleeping fancy does not oftener transport me to you. Were it true, as some suppose, that our dreams are usually influenced by our employment when awake, I should furely dream of you always. For my attention is feldom so engaged by the most pressing business, as to exclude the thoughts of you, five minutes at a time. Perhaps my mind, being so taken up with you when I am awake, is glad to take the opportunity of fleeping, when my body does. Yet I well remember that when I first loved you, I dreamed of you, night after night, for near three months fuccessively; though I certainly could not have half the regard for you then, that I have now.

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shebar, 26 February.

Ir our correspondence was made public, I suppose many people, who, though married, are strangers to the delicacy of mutual love, would smile at me for writing so often, and at you for accepting my frequent and long letters so savourably as I know you will. I pity them no less than they can pity me.

I could tell those who undervalue only because they do not understand, that there have been men of as much politeness and good judgment as they can pretend to, who have placed much of their happiness in possessing and deserving the affections of a worthy woman. If you understood Latin, you would be much pleased with some letters of Pliny to his wife. He was the first favorite of the Emperor, and as a scholar, a courtier, and a philosopher, inferior to none of his age. You may find two or three of them translated in the Tatler, but they fall short of the spirit of the original. But

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were the billetdoux of our modern fine gentlemen, upon the commencement of an amour, (which is the only time they are defirous of pleafing) compared with the epiftles of Pliny to his Calphurnias, they would appear very trivial and empty. The grateful remembrance of past pleasures, the anxiety and tediousness of absence, the impertinence of all business compared with love, the inquietude of passing a day without a letter, and the promised satisfaction of a happy meeting, are topics which he dwells upon with equal elegance and paffion. Having faid fo much of Pliny, I must add in my own behalf, that I love as well as he did, though I cannot express myself so well; but for plain downright affection and gratitude, I would not yield to the best Pliny that ever wore a head.

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The Shebar, 5 March.

It was an expression of Cato, that it was more honourable to be a good husband,

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husband, than a great senator. The point of honour seems to have varied since his time. We now find too many who value themselves upon a contrary character, and yet are not the worse received in company, not even by those of your sex; who I think, both in justice and compassion, should unite in despising the man who dares to use a deserving woman ill, because he has not a heart to value her.

- But had Cato faid there was more profit and comfort in being a good husband than in being an unmarried Emperor, he would have faid but the truth. And, however fashionable it might become to dispute or contradict this maxim, there would always be a favoured few, who would not be difputed, or laughed out of their experience. And it is only by experience it can be known. We need not wonder, therefore, if a married life is thought lightly of, by those who judge of it only by hearsay. For a man might as well pretend to paint a found, as to describe the various sensibilities connected Melitalia.

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connected with a happy marriage, in such a manner as to make a stranger understand them.

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Shebar, 22 March.

A DESIRE of rendering myself agreeable to you has long been a motive of my conduct. This I may well stile my ruling passion. I was changeable as the weather, till my regard for you fixed me, and collected all my aims to the fingle point of gaining you. Then my faculties, which before were remiss, were roused, and indolence gave way to application. It has been observed, that those who have wearied themselves in vainly searching after the Philosopher's stone, have often found out useful things which they had no thought of feeking. So I, in the pursuit of the methods by which I hoped to influence you, obtained unawares advantages of another kind. The defire of pleafing you insensibly D 4

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infensibly made me more acceptable to others. In one effential respect the comparison happily fails. These philosophers were poorly rewarded for their trouble, by their petty discoveries, while their principal object was still unattained. Whereas I not only sound the means leading to my chief desire pleasant and profitable, but in due time completely gained my end. I long for the opportunity of thanking you again and again.

Shebar, 29 March.

THE Spectator tells us, that Socrates, in discoursing upon marriage, placed it in such an advantageous light, that he induced all his auditors to marry as fast as possible. And yet it seems he was, at that time, himself wedded to a noted shrew. So that he could hardly draw many persuasive arguments from his own experience. Surely, had he been matched like me, he would have have spoken with still greater emphasis. Methinks, if I had his eloquence, I could delight to speak on this subject from morning to night. I could tell the foolish world how strangely they wander from the path of happiness, while they seek that satisfaction in luxury, wealth, or ambition, which nothing but mutual love can afford.

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I give and take a good deal of raillery among the sea-captains I meet with here. They think I have not a right notion of life, and I am sure they have not. They fay I am melancholy; I tell them they are mad. They fay, I am a flave to one woman, which I deny; but can prove that fome of them are mere flaves to a hun-They wonder at my humour; I dred. pity theirs. They can form no idea of my happiness; I answer I think the better of it on that account; for I should be ashamed of it, if it was fuited to the level of those who can be pleased with a drunken debauch, or the smile of a prostitute. shall hardly come to an agreement on these

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points,

points, for they pretend to appeal to experience against me. Just so, some of the poor objects in Bethlem, while raving in straw and dirt, mistake their chains for ornaments of gold, announce themselves to be kings or lords, and are firmly persuaded, that every person who pities them is out of his wits.

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apply g the tell-crimains I meet much here.

They than I have not a right notion of

voll Jon Synd vo Rio St. Paul's, 17 April.

May you always feel a satisfaction equal to that which the receipt of your two dear letters last night gave me, and I need wish you nothing farther till we happily meet. Could any thing enhance the value of such marks of your affection, it would be my receiving them so unexpectedly. For I had long given them over for lost, or worse than lost, exposed to the ill-bred curiosity of some sea-bear, who, incapable of understanding, much more of valuing your delicacy, might have insulted them by some

shocking jest, to the diversion of his brother animals, over a can of nafty flip. Do not think I extend the direction of divine Providence too minutely, if I suppose there was fomething remarkable in my getting them at last (for they have been transferred to fix or seven different vessels successively). They are of great importance to me. They could not have arrived at a more feafonable juncture, to revive my spirits, which are sometimes a little flagged by the tediousness and difficulties of the voyage. I thank God that I possess them fafe, and had the pleasure to find the wax whole, as it came from under your feal. I could almost hug every dirty fellow through whose hands they have passed, for taking fuch care of them. It will employ me agreeably for some days to answer them periodically, if you will allow the word in that sense—I mean, to comment upon every period. Total Techniques and areas for

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Alelen over the St. Rio St. Paul's, 19 April.

You wonder that fuch a fmart girl as Miss H- should throw herself away upon an unsuitable husband. But are you fure that your own judgment has not been often called in question upon this head? It would ill become me to blame her for matching at an apparent disparity, because to fuch a partiality in your conduct I owe my happiness. And though, upon comparison, I should prove a little more tolerable than he, yet you are fo much superior to her, as still to leave a proportionate difference between us. I believe the motives which induced you to give me your hand, are not understood by at least one half of our acquaintance. How often must they have faid, What! the accomplished, eafy, polite Miss C-, married to that awkward piece of formality, whose ridiculous behaviour was for years a standing jest amongst us! Strange!-But I could tell them that you yourself, with all your ease

ease and politeness, were alloyed with a quality almost as fingular and unfashionable as any of mine. I mean an artless generofity of mind, upon the knowledge of which I raised my first wishes, and to which I am indebted for their completion. My love to you occasioned my troubles, my troubles inspired you with compassion, that compassion encouraged me to perseverance, which long persevered in, induced first your good opinion, then your goodwill, and thus by pleafing gradations, I reached the happy fummit of my wishes. That I may be always worthy of my privilege, and that you may be no lofer by my gain, is my constant and earnest prayer. One we Irvin Whole Shore a here belong They also will but helpers the constant will

Tothing with at I at Rio St. Paul's, 30 April.

Now for a word of condolence on the catastrophe of poor Fancy. I am really forry, having a complacence for every

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every thing that has, in any degree, the merit of pleafing you. Besides, he was so good natured, and had a fidelity and affiduity, which might shame many who walk upon two legs. But when I recollect his manner of life, I must, notwitstanding his premature death, pronounce him to have been a happy dog. While many poor puppies have wandered forlorn in the ftreets, exposed to the gripe of the butcher's furly mastiff, the kick of the weary and peevish traveller, or of the more heavy iron-hoofed horse, and many similar calamities, highly favoured Fancy was brought up within doors, in peace and plenty, and, to fay all in a word, indulged with your fmiles and careffes. While I -what would I give to be so caressed and smiled upon! If after all this he came to a violent end, many of the greatest heroes have been ferved to before him. So the mighty Cæfar, after all his honours and success, was feized by mad dogs (that were fawning upon him a little before), who bit him

(as we are told) in three and twenty places till he died. Cæfar and Fancy equally afford a proof, that no fituation in life is perfectly secure.—But enough of trifling.

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load; and that, not sain when

Mana, 3 May.

You know the grove where we have fometimes walked together; but where I more frequently passed many hours by myself. I call that grove my chapel, and my study. There I have offered many prayers for your welfare. There I have formed plans for my future conduct, and confidered in what manner I might best deserve and return your love. There is not a tree in the whole walk, but if it could speak, and would speak truth, might bear testimony to my regard for you. For I believe you know that it is my frequent custom to vent my thoughts aloud, when I am fure that no one is within hearing. I have had many a tender foliloquy

in that grove concerning you, and in the height of my enthulialm, have often repeated your dear name, merely to hear it returned by the echo. These, and many other harmless things, which the insensible and the mercenary would term sooleries, I have done; and that, not only when a desponding lover, but when a happy one. I am so far from being influenced by that detestable maxim, Possession quenches love—that I can hardly allow my affection for you before marriage, the same name by which I would express (if I could) what I now feel.

Cape Mount, 7 May.

I HAVE been through fire and water for you to-day. That is to fay, I was exposed for some hours to a more scorching sun than you can easily conceive of; and then cooled, when I landed, by the surf, or violent surges of the sea, breaking upon the

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the shore. I charge all my satigue to your account, because you only are able to pay me for it; and for your sake it is all welcome. I am now warm with the hope of quitting this troublesome coast in a few days.

demanding lover, bug when a happy one.

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Stole de la constante de Shebar, 14 May.

My last broke off abruptly. I was ill, and disconcerted by an incident in bufiness, which might have had bad conse-But I am well again, and all is A happy restoration to you, is to rights. the principal end I propose, and if I attain it, I am not very folicitous, whether my passage homewards be long or short, pleafant or otherwise, so that our meeting be fafe and happy at last. The-scenes of life I have paffed through, have taught the a degree of patience and thankfulness, which support me under ordinary troubles; and I hope the God in whom I defire to truft, will

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will preserve me from very heavy ones. I seem persuaded that he who has done so much for me, will at a proper time do more; if I do not put hindrances in my own way, by impatience and unthankful complaints. In the mean time my assurance of your love is my constant support and feast. I must not expect to slide through life without meeting any rubs. If it would please God, I could wish to bear all my pains by myself, and to enjoy all my real pleasures with you.

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to Alien. A hopey restancion to you is

Shebar, 17 May

Though in this country there is no winter, properly speaking, the different parts of the year are no less different than in England. For about seven months the weather is remarkably fair, with light winds, and seldom a threatening cloud to be seen. In the remaining five, we have either incessant heavy rains, or sudden storms.

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ftorms of wind, with violent thunder and rain. This uncomfortable feafon is now commencing, but I hope we shall not suffer much by it, as I expect to fail, and change my climate in a few days. I only mention it as an excuse for any faults in my letters, which I would have you impute to my fituation, which I leave you to guess at as well as you can. Two hundred people confined in a small vessel, in bad weather, occasion noise, dirt, and trouble enough. Besides the common business and care, incident to other thips, we have a large number of flaves, that must be attended, fed, cleaned, and guarded against, let what will stand still. When I compare a day passed in this manner, with one of the happy days I have known with you, I can scarcely imagine a greater contrast. But when I turn my thoughts forward, and indulge the hope of being restored to you again, that prospect reconciles me to all that is before ing traductive particular

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find and nature until high was in a factor.

At Sea, 24 May.

AT length, my dearest M. I have lost sight of Africa, and have been three days on my passage towards Antigua. Innumerable dangers and difficulties, which, without a superior protection, no man could escape or furmount, are, by the goodness of God, happily over. I now think myfelf every hour drawing nearer to you; or (which is the next comfort to it of which I am capable) to the receipt of more letters from you, to confirm my prayers for your welfare, and for the continuance of your Of the latter I cannot doubt for a moment. I think myself as unalterably fixed in your affection, as I feel you are in mine: This perfuasion, so needful to my happiness, is rivetted in my heart, and I would not part with it for mines of gold. Yet there is fomething inexpressibly engaging, to read the tender acknowledgment, under your own dear hand. will quite spoil me for a letter-writer. The great La come

great beauty of an epistolary stile is concisenes; I seem rather to study circumlocution, when writing to you, that I may make some amends in quantity, for what I sall short in the quality of my letters, if compared with yours. It is now ten in the evening. I am going to walk the deck and think of you; and according to my constant custom, to recommend you to the care and protection of God.

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At Sea, 27 June.

Sometimes my letters resemble the course of a Hare. I digress from one thing to another, till I make a fair round, and return to the subject with which I began. At other times, like the Fox, I lead you a chase right out, leap over all bounds of regularity, and you cannot guess by the manner of my setting off, whither or how far I may lead you; nor can I tell myself; but sear I tire you to keep pace with my rambles.

rambles. But if, upon the whole, you are pleased or amused, my end is answered. In this my defultory way, I am almost at the bottom of my twelfth large sheet, and am now expecting to fee Antigua every minute, where I hope to be furnished with new materials. I had but two opportunities of writing from the coast, and shall therefore carry eight sheets with me, which I shall disperse homewards as fast as I can, as occasions offer, for my justification, lest you should in some anxious moment sufpect me of negligence. Though I rather believe you are disposed to judge favourable of me, even if appearances should be against me. Indeed your idea is constantly with me, and I hope in due time I shall prove the reverse of Æsop's dog, and by long gaping after the shadow, come at length to repossess the substance. Eager as I am for the receipt of your expected letters, my heart goes often pit a pat, lest I should hear that you have been ill or uneafy. But I check my fears, by confidering

ing that I have committed you to him, who is able to take better care of you than I could, if I was present with you. To him I again recommend you, praying that we may at length be restored to each other, and that I may always prove worthy of your affection.

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Antigua, 4 July.

As I have been for three nights almost sleepless, I can hardly keep my eyes open, not even to write to you. But I have been long providing against busy times, and now enclose you three sheets, as a specimen; and have six more ready to send as ships may offer. The business of this is chiefly to acquaint you, that I arrived here in safety yesterday, and have received your several savours of the 20th December, 11th January, and 2d April That which you mention to have written in October has not come to hand. But

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my joy for those received has been so great, that I have not yet been at leisure, sufficiently to regret the one which is lost. Had not the news of my dear father's death been accompanied by these confirmations of your health, and your affection to me, I should have selt it more heavily, for I loved and revered him. But enough of this. My tears drop upon the paper.—

Tell me, my dearest, if you can, How two opposite passions find room for exercise in my breast at the same time? I rejoice greatly in the consciousness of your love, and I forrow greatly for my father's death. These different emotions seem not to interfere. But I have now given vent to my grief, and shall not indulge it. Religion, which is the best philosophy, has, I hope, prepared me, in a measure, for every event, at least, for all but one: that one indeed I cannot think of without trembling.

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Antigua, 5 July.

You caution me to be careful of my own life for your fake, which is indeed the most engaging argument you can affign; for I know nothing but yourfelf that makes a continuance in this life very defirable, unless as it is a state of improvement for a better. But, if I durst, I should a little blame the strength of your expresfions upon the point. God only knows which of us must depart first, but it is probable, one must furvive the knowledge of the other's death. If it should be my lot, I cannot tell how I should be able to bear it; but I would wish our love to be so regulated, that neither of us should be rendered miserable by a separation; but rather be supported by a well grounded hope, that a few more rolling years would re-unite us, never more to part. world liable to fuch unexpected and unavoidable changes, there is no probability of being happy, even in the enjoyment of VOL. I. our

our own wishes, unless we hold them in subordination to the will and wisdom of God, who is the author and giver of every blessing.

Your last letter is the best, because the longest, and because you seem to have written it when you were tolerably easy, and at peace in your mind. If this was in any measure owing to hearing from me, I hope you will be peaceful for the remainder of the voyage; for I expect frequent opportunities of writing, and I am not likely to let one of them slip.

Antigua, 9 July.

This is my fourth letter in five days. I write by every ship, that you may have the most early information possible of my arrival and welfare, to relieve the anxiety which I fear you must have felt; and I now send the two last of the eight sheets I brought with me. Should all my pack-

ets arrive fafely, and nearly together, your love must strengthen your patience, or you will be wearied by the perusal. But I believe you will receive them with as much pleafure as I wrote them. I cannot more strongly express my confidence of your affection. I have perhaps told you before, that, when we married, I had not deserved much of your positive love; but I knew from your temper, that I might be fure your heart was free from any other engagement or preference; and for the reft, I depended on your generofity, and on my own fincere endeavours to deserve you. But even this confidence in myfelf, and in you, did not induce me to expect you would advance so fast, as in a few months to overtake me in the race, in which I fet out feven long years before you.

unanitager has ening Antigua, 23 July-

Your last letter has the only additional excellence which I could wish for E 2 in

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in a letter from you; I mean the length. You are greatly improved indeed. At the end of five years, with some difficulty, I drew fix lines from you. In less than two years afterwards, I obtained eleven lines and a half more. After marriage you ftipulated to return one line for my two; and though you fell fomething short of your agreement, I acquitted you; for besides that one of your lines is worth ten of mine, I confidered, that, at the time of articling, you could not foresee that I should be so unreasonably prolix as I have proved. Could any one who knew us both have imagined, that you should already imitate me as far as one hundred and twenty lines? Yes, any one who knew us both perhaps might expect it. But if he only knew me, I think he would not. When I say You imitate me; I mean only in the length, for you leave me in full possession of my tautologies, perplexities, and repetitions. I have thought that your writing so correctly was, in fome measure, owing to your brevity. vity. But I was mistaken. You have shewn me, that as you have the art of imprinting your character and spirit in three or four lines, so you can, if you please, enlarge to as many hundred, without sinking below yourself in a single expression.

I admire the delicate turn of your writing. You need not be careful who fees your letters; for though you touch upon the most interesting subjects in a manner quite intelligible to me, a stranger could pick little out of them. I would imitate you in this, if I could, while conveyances are so uncertain. However, I hope that if my flights were exposed to public view, there would be nothing found but what tended to your honour, though perhaps my own prudence might be called in queftion. I might even be excused by competent judges, but in the crowd we call the world, what a mixture of wonder, envy, and contempt, should I excite! How would they exclaim, This is mere cant, E 3 com and bombaft,

bombaft, enthufiafm! I hope most of my poor effays to thank you, have merit enough to meet with fuch a reception from the ignorant and felfish. Imagine Handel playing one of his best pieces to a parcel of gypties, who till then had only heard fuch music as gypsies are accustomed to; would they not gape and stare at him, and with that he had done tuning his inftrument, and would give them fomething worth their hearing? Or if a clown, who had feen a puppershew, should go to the theatre in hopes of formething to make him laugh, and hear Garrick repeating the fofiloquy, To be, or not to be, he would probably wonder what the audience could find to admire, or applaud in such dry stuff. It grows late, or I could run over fifty more inftances of the readiness of people to despise what they do not understand. then I would endeavour to prove (I think it no difficult task) that this folly is never more completely abfurd, than when the dull, or the cold, or the crofs, or the unamiable,

miable, or the envious, or the felfish, or the abandoned, affect to undervalue the happiness of the marriage state. enough to meet

the ignorant and felfills. Imagine 14 co

iel playing one of his belt pieces to a pu

and who bed word lit Antique, & August.

You will perceive by the date, that this is one of the days which I pass, as much as I can, in retirement and reflection. My correspondence with you falls in with my defign. I hope a mutual affection will be rather a help than a hindrance to us, in our most important concerns. Not one of the many bleffings which God has bestowed upon me, excites in me a more ardent desire to be thankful, than that which he has given me in you. And the remembrance of our past endearments, is a powerful preservative, to keep me from low and unworthy purfuits. In like manner, nothing reconciles me fo much to the troubles and hazards incident to my lituation, as the thought that I en-

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dure them for your fake, and that from you I expect a recompense answerable to my wishes. I hope I may say this, without derogating from those motives, which ought to have no less weight with me, if you were out of the question. My meaning is, that I ought to be very thankful to the goodness of the Lord, who has thus ordered my duty and my inclinations to go hand in hand, and in a manner bribed me to my true interest. And this enhances my regard to you; that I am not only indebted to you for my pleasures here, but that you will be a mean of preparing me for those which I hope for hereafter. This is the proper foundation for abiding love. A love like mine is calculated for all feafons and changes; equally fuited, to enlarge the advantages of prosperity beyond the comprehension of a stranger, and to gild the uneasy hours of pain and trouble. I may lofe money, health, liberty, or limbs, but while it pleases God to preserve my memory, nothing can rob me of the conscious-

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ness that you are mine, and that I am savoured with the dearest place in your heart. The vessel is now under sail, so I must conclude. I hope to follow her soon. Adieu, my dearest. Believe me to be almost continually praying for you, and studying how to approve mysels,

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bearing or or or switches you Yours, &c. be

W 1212 abiv of Republic Ar Sea, 14 August.

I AM so pleased with writing to you, and so used to it, that though I hope to deliver you my pacquet with my own hand, I cannot desist. I now begin a book for your entertainment, and shall only mark the date here and there, reserving my bounden subscription to the end.

I suppose most people when entering the marriage state promise themselves much satisfaction; and I am asraid very many are greatly disappointed. Why has it been otherwise with me? How was it,

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that at a time when I was miltaken and wrong, in every other part of my conduct, I should direct my addresses to perhaps the only one in the fphere of my acquaintance who could make me happy? Undoubtedly the hand of God was in it. How wretched must I have been had my heart been so closely engaged to a giddy, inconsiderate, or mercenary character! Besides my other obligations, I must always confider you as the principal inftrument employed by divine Providence, to wean me from those errors and evils, which otherwise, must have soon issued in my destruction. This will be a motive of regard which will always remain, though length of time should abate the force of many other endearing confiderations; and when life has nothing more in itself defirable, I shall have reason, with my dying breath, to bless God for the influence you have had over me.

You will not wonder that I write in a ferious strain, when I tell you that I am sitting

fitting by a person in his last agonies, and who, only five days since, was healthy and storid. This is my surgeon, who, by an obliging behaviour during the whole voyage, has gained a great share of my regard. But I fear he must go. — Cut short in the vigour of life, amidst a heap of amusing purposes and prospects, if he reached England!

19th August.

My poor surgeon is gone, and buried in the sea; a sepulchre, of which, while living he could not bear the thought. But it makes no difference to him now. Besides my personal regard, I shall miss him upon your account. For from the time I knew him so well as to judge him worthy of the subject, I have often sound some relief by venting my mind to him in talking about you. I have none with me now but mere sailors, to whom I should degrade your name if I mentioned it; and shall therefore keep my pleasures and my paine to myself.

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Yet now and then, when I am fure I am not overheard, I breathe out your name, My dearest M. and find music in the found.

We have had very bad weather lately, and I should have been assaid of a hurricane, (for this is the season) but that my dependance upon the providence of God is become almost habitual. I have had so many, and such great deliverances, within these sew years, that I hope I shall learn by degrees, to think myself in no more danger in one time or place than in another, while I am in the path of duty, and do not place considence in my own abilities, or mistake the means for the end.

at Nugue Are shered drive at August. In

I submit, with due deserence, to your judgment in my own savour, and will entertain as good an opinion of myself as I can, with any regard to truth. Indeed, if I am not better than formerly, by my connection with you, I must be quite incorrigible.

AND ALL CHANGE AND A SILVE I WAS TO

anish passent belor bits held in Size and well-di-

rigible. For a proof that I once was a very poor creature, I could, if you would not be angry, cite your own opinion upon feveral occasions, and fummons more witnesses than two or three. I divert myself fometimes with the recollection of what paffed between Mrs. P. and me, when I first saw her after we were married. It was to this purpose. Dear Madam, wish me joy. Of what, Sir? Of my marriage. With whom pray? With my dear M. What M: M. C? Yes; she owned that name lately, but has now cast it off, and defires you would know her by mine. Ah! fays the, fighing and thaking her head both at once, I wish it was true. Her fifter interposed, He only jests. She answered, Then he is much altered; very lately he would not have jefted upon this subject. No really, it is downright earnest; why are you so backward to credit it? Nayonly-because-I do not know-stayno-it is impossible. When she had repeated this, or fomething like it, two or three

three times, I begged her to collect herfelf, and give me her reasons. She did not
care to speak out, but hinted an unsuitableness of tempers; that you was cheerful and sprightly, and I heavy and dull;
and though I might be mad enough to
match at a disparity, you were more mistress
of yourself than to make such a wild experiment. This she minced up as complaisantly as she could, not to offend me;
but I am consident her real sentiments,
and those of most of our acquaintance,
were as I have expressed.

I told her she had judged rightly of me, but it was plain she did not so well know you. At length she was convinced—but still insisted, 'twas strange, 'twas passing strange; but that she should love you better than ever. With all my heart, Madam, I replied, and so shall I likewise.

Charles Andre 28th August.

When I am in easy circumstances, I try to heighten my pleasure by the recollection

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otherwise. When I am in a safe harbour, or on shore, I think of past difficulties and dangers. When (as at present) I possess plenty, I recall to mind the seasons when I was destitute of bread to eat, or a shirt to wear. And, to sum up all, since I have been happy in a return of your affection, I often compare the state of my mind, with what it was when I despaired of gaining it.

I have been lately looking back to the hour when I first saw you, and from thence through all the various turns I met with till you had the goodness to give me your hand and heart; and though you have abundantly made me amends for all my sufferings, I think nothing short of yourself could have satisfied me; and that, to the degree I loved you, I must have been miserable to the end of my life, without you.

Do not think I consider you as the real cause of my wretchedness; you were indeed the occasion, but the cause was wholly in myself. I gradually deviated from the

principles in which I was educated, till I became profligate and abandoned; and the way of transgressors will always be hard. From this state God might indeed have appointed some other way for my recovery, though I had never known you; but to all human appearance, you were the instrument of snatching me from ruin. And at last, if you had not been one of a thousand, to conduct the absolute insluence you had over me with prudence and caution, we might both have been unhappy.

December 12, 1742, was the memorable day on the event of which my future life was to turn. I was then advancing towards eighteen, you were within a month of fourteen. How wonderful, that when we were both fo young, an impression should be made upon my mind, almost at first sight, which neither distance, nor absence, nor all my sufferings, nor even all the licentiousness and folly I afterwards run into, could obliterate!

I knew not at first what ailed me. I

was uneafy when you were absent, yet when you were present I scarcely durst look at you. If I attempted to speak, I trembled and was consused. My love made me stupid at first. I could not bear to leave you; but once and again broke my engagements, and disappointed my father's aim to settle me in life, rather than be banished far from you.

so to the state of the state of August.

In March, 1744, I was impressed, and sent in a tender on board the Harwich. Here I began a new stage of my life. Here I met with a shrewd man, who robbed me of my principles, and possoned me with insidelity. Then bad soon became worse. I forsook God, and he lest me, for a time, to sollow the way of my own heart. I deserted from the ship at Plymouth when sent upon duty, but was apprehended, brought back like a selon, degraded and punished as I well deserved. Surely no misery could be greater than mine while I remained in that

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that ship abut at Madeira I was exchanged, and fens to Guinea. In that ship I might have done well, but I would not, and at length thought it eligible to quit her, and to refide on shore in Africa. Here falling fick, and being therefore useless, I incurred the displeasure and contempt of my black miftres P. I. and foon became the fcorn and the pity of flaves. Almost naked and familhed, a borden to myself and to all around me, helpless and hopeless, I dragged through almost a year. My outward fination was then a little amended; and I thought myself fixed for life, when a mesfage reached me in a most providential manner, inviting me to return to England The invitation would have been in vain, had it not revived in my mind-the possibility (had I confidered maturely, it would hardly have amounted to a possibility) of obtaining you. This gleam of hope determined me. If I had not known you, perhaps I should never have seen the coast of Guinea. But it seems more certain,

tain that if I had not known you I should never have returned from it. Near a year (for fo long I was on thip board) I fpent in dreadful wickedness And I should have come to England, as unworthy of you as ever, had it not pleafed God to meet with me. Oh! I have reason to praise him for that storm; for the apprehenfion I had, first of finking under the weight of all my fins into the ocean, and into eternity, and afterwards of being flarved to death. Then I began to think; I attempted to pray, and my first halfformed prayers were answered. He whom the winds and feas obey, in a manner little less than miraculous, brought me in fafety to Ireland, 1984 Asher 1999 of the other parts

Continue to the zd September.

When I arrived at Liverpool, not meeting with a letter from your aunt, I thought
myself forsaken by her. This, added to
the rest of the difficulties which I knew
were in my way, made me despair of success:

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cess; and as I was now become more confiderate, I thought it best for us both to break off; accordingly I wrote to her, with a heavy heart, and with watery eyes, that I intended to give you no further trouble. But, upon the receipt of her answer, I was glad to change my mind, and I foon fet off for London to fee you. See you I did. but little more. I was tongue-tied as formerly: when I had just feasted my eyes, I returned to Liverpool at almost as great an uncertainty as before; I cannot fay quite, for I faw fo much generofity in your behaviour, as encouraged me to hope on And I ventured afterwards to put it to a final iffue to yourfelf by letter. I believe had you then given me an absolute refusal, I should have endeavoured to conquer, or at least, to smother my passion.

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When I received your answer, I kept it some time before I durst open it. When I did, I was transported to find you kind-for though you wrote in the most cautious terms, I knew it was much in my favour that

that you would write at all, and that you designed I should understand it so. And I was sure you had too much honour and goodness, to triste with me after I had stated the affair in so serious a light.

Then, my dearest M. on that very day, I began to live indeed, and to act, in all my concerns, with a spirit and firmness to which I before was a stranger. My next voyage, though troublesome enough, yet, enlivened by the hopes you had given me, was to me light and easy. And as it pleafed God to enable me, in some measure, to act up to my new resolutions, I was, for the most part, at peace every way. I informed you of my arrival at Liverpool, and, upon the receipt of your fecond dear letter, I fet off to try once more what I could find to fay for myself; and, as you were then disposed to make your company agreeable to mey I found it fo indeed. Such are the outlines of my history, which I will close with thanking you for the invaluable present you made me, on the never

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But I must request your patience while I draw an inference or two from it.

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Smood Landstaw with Lived in 5th September.

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And first, from a frequent review of the past, I learn to be easy and thankful in my present fituation. The dispensations of divine Providence towards me have fure-Ay been extraordinary. All the evil I fuffered was the immediate refult of my own folly and wilfulness; but the good I have experienced was wholly unmerited, and for a long time unhoped for. Hadit pleafed God to continue my life upon any terms, I ought to be very thankful for it, as allowing me time for repentance. But, as though this were a small thing, my wild and roving behaviour has been over-ruled to procure me a better profpect in life, than perhaps I should have obtained by following my proper bulinels from the first, with a steady application. And farther, as I have reason to think that riches, could I have

have acquired them, would have been tasteless to me without you, what sufficient acknowledgment can I make that even this last, best, crowning gift, should be added to the rest! Could my wretched course of life, for several years that I pretended to have you so much at heart, entitle me to this blessing? Alas! I was unworthy of you, in every sense of the word!

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Since, therefore, fo many bleffings were in store for me, though I had cast off all fear and thought of the great God, why should I fear now, that I endeavour to acknowledge him in all my ways? I entered upon this voyage with little anxiety, though I well knew it would expose me to many dangers, because I had been protected before, and brought through the like unhurt. I parted from you with grief, it is true, and yet with a degree of cheerfulness, because I trusted that he who brought us together fo much beyond my expectations and deferts, would restore us to each other again at a proper time; and for

for the same reason, my heart now exults in the hope that the time is nearly approaching. My cares are sweetened with many comforts, and my pleasures, when I meet them, I believe, are with as little alloy as can be expected in this sublunary stare.

I infer, secondly, (which I have often mentioned before, but cannot too often repeat) how great my obligations are to you! I will not compliment you as the first and principal cause, (for that I look higher) but furely I may confider you as the chief mean and instrument of rescuing me from guilt and mifery, and forming me to a true taste for the enjoyment of life. In gaining you, I gained all at once. The empty shews of pleasure, which daily ruin thousands, have no more charms for me; and the difficulties and troubles which are, more or less, inseparable from this mortal state, appear light and tolerable for your fake. The only study now left me (a pleasingstudy) is, how I may best deserve and requite (4)

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quite your goodness. Good night. I am going to look at the north star.

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were table but to a con 6th September.

I must mention one additional circumstance, which demands my thankfulness. I mean the friendship, and kindness of the whole family to which I am by you allied. Was it not very happy for me, that I should receive you from those very perfons, to whom, of all others, I had the greatest desire of being obliged? For I knew it would have been in vain to expect your confent, unless it was allowed and confirmed by theirs. By the bye I should tell you, that your unufual observance to your parents, gave me some of my strongest hopes, that if we were once joined, we should do well together; for I thought it morally impossible, that the best daughter I had met with, should not prove a good wife. I have seen the peace of some hopeful marriages disturbed, and sometimes destroyed, by diffensions arising from the Vol. I. new

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At Sea, 9th September

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IT is now fuch weather, as often makes those who live on shore, pity the poor failors. The wind blows very hard, the sea runs high, and tosses the ship about, without any ceremony. So that writing is difficult, and I must be shorter than usual; but I was not willing to desift entirely. For my own part, I do not think my case very pitiable. I am in good health, I am surrounded by a good Providence, to which a calm and a ftorm are alike; and, as the wind is fair, every puff pushes me nearer to you. I have shortened the distance between us about 180 miles within the last 24 hours. Who would not purchase this fpeed (if it could be bought) at the price of a little inconvenience? Not that I am anxiously in haste. I am willing to make the

the best use both of fair, and of contrary winds, and, if possible, with equal thankfulness; for I trust, all my concerns are under a better direction than my own; and that you and I shall meet again, in the best concerted hour, and manner, imaginable.

At Sea, 16th September.

The scene is much changed since yesterday. The wind is abated, and the raging billows are greatly subsided. I thank God we did not sustain the least damage; though such seasons are not without real danger; for the sorce of the sea, when enraged by the wind, is inconceivable by those who have not seen it, and unmanageable by those who have seen the most of it. God is often pleased to make this element, his instrument of consounding the pride of those who presume to think their own art, vigilance, and precaution, a sufficient security against it; while at the same, or at a worse time, he makes the use

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of common means successful, to such as acknowledge that their best endeavours must be in vain, without his blessing.

It is a common error, to be much afraid in times of great apparent danger, and only at such seasons. In a tempest, a fire, a pestilence, or an earthquake, we are alarmed, and cry, Lord, help us, and give ourselves up for gone. But alas! were our frail lives any way inconsistent with the views of Providence, there is no need of such a mighty apparatus to remove us. A fever, a fall, a sly, a tile, or even an hair, are, and have been sufficient to interrupt the schemes of the ambitious, to rob the conqueror of his triumphs, or to change beauty into a loathsome mass.

These thoughts have arisen from a grateful sense of my late preservation, and there is a propriety in offering them to you. I owe to you the most that endears life to me. I ought to be thankful for its continuance, though it were not thus enlivened, as a state of improvement and prepa-

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ration for a better; but for any happiness merely temporal, further than what shall be allotted me, through and with you, I have neither conception nor defire. Farther than this I dare not fay. God forbid that either of us should mistake the mean, his goodness in bleffing us with affections so happily attuned to each other, for the end to which it ought to lead us; fo as to place an undue stress, upon what must be either taken from us, or we from it. Since we are fure we must at length part, let us endeavour that it may be upon fuch terms, as may afford us, mutually, the joyful hope of a re-union, when we shall no more be liable to separation, or disappointment. This must be happiness indeed !

At-Sea, 19th September.

I AM a great admirer of Æsop's fables. They could hardly have been more adapted to the customs and humours of our times, had they been written in Lon-

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don. His apes, lions, foxes, geefe, magpies, and monkeys, may be met with in our streets every day. As a proof that I am not partial in my censure, I will consess that I myself have frequently appeared in some of these characters. When I first knew you I was a bear; I then became an owl, and asterwards exhibited the worst properties of all his brutes, in my single fels.

The morals, so called, usually subjoined to the fables, I think, might be omitted without much loss. Let the reader moralise for himself, as I mean to do on a fable which commonly stands the first in the book. I must give it you from memory, and believe I shall not much deviate from the original.

A cock, scraping in a dunghill, sound a diamond. Oh! said he, what a fine bright thing is this! a jeweller would be over-joyed to find it; but for my part, I think it a mere bauble, and would prefer one barley corn to all the diamonds and pearls

in the world! Is not this a lively picture of some, who would be thought fine gentlemen! In taste, discernment, and employment, how nearly do they refemble the cock? Solomon affures us, the price of a virtuous woman is above rubies; which fufficiently explains what is meant by the diamond. Thus the libertine judges of a fine woman, every way qualified to make a man of fense happy. He will, like the cock, allow that she is worth much to one who knows how to value her; (for beauty joined with goodness in a female character, will extort fome homage from the most brutish.) I must own, he would say, she is very amiable, and if a man should gain her, who can relish the good sense, tenderness, and generofity, she seems to possess, he would, to be fure, think himself very happy; but these things are to me mere baubles. If I have my barley corn I shall not envy him. My bottle and a brothel are more to my taste. Thus far my moral.

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How is it that women, who profess a regard for honour, truth, and virtue, will, without fcruple, converse, in general terms, with men who live in open defiance to these principles, if they are only recommended by a genteel address and appearance; and will permit them, upon the easy condition of avoiding gross vulgar terms, to fay things which they must furely despise? If they would resolutely treat with contempt, the man who should dare to hint, that he confiders all women as alike, it would prevent the ruin of many of your fex, and be the most effectual step towards a reformation amongst ours, that I can think of. But now, let a wretch, by a complicated scene of perjury, baseness, and ingratitude, first ruin, and then abandon a young creature, who has been fo unhappy as to believe him, he will probably be received in the next company with a fmile, and marks of good will; while the poor dupe of his artifice, deprived both of peace and fubfiftence, shall be deemed unworthy

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of pity. And this from women, who ought to be the patterns of commiseration and candour!

You, I know, think more justly. You do not suppose, that your having withstood or escaped all villainous designs, can warrant you to add weight to the affliction of those who have been overreached. I may say of you, with the poet,

There dwelt the fcorn of vice, and pity too.

I know not what I should digress to next, but I am just told, The tea-kettle boils, so, as the sailors say, no more at present.

20th September.

We have another heavy gale of wind, and it is not easy to sit fast, or to hold a pen; but as the distance between us is lessening at the rate of seven or eight miles per hour, I am willing to fill up my paper as fast as I can. I wish I had words to convey some idea of the scene around me.

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But it cannot be fully described. A faint, and but a faint conception, may be formed from pictures, or prints, of a storm at fea. Imagine to yourfelf an immense body of water behind you, higher than a house, and a chasm of equal depth just before you: both so apparently dangerous, that you could hardly determine which to venture; and both fo near, as not to allow you a moment's time to choose: for in the twinkling of an eye the ship descends into the pit which is gaping to receive her, and with equal swiftness ascends to the top on the other side, before the mountain that is behind can overtake her. And this is repeated as often as you can deliberately count four. It is indeed wonderful, that a ship will run incessantly over these hills and dales, for days and weeks together, (if the gale lasts so long) without receiving the least damage, or taking any considerable quantity of water on board; and yet never be more than four or five yards from a sea, which, (if it was quite to reach her) would would perhaps disable her beyond recovery, if not beat her to pieces at a fingle blow. Need we go farther for the proof of a Providence always near, always kind? kind to the unthankful and the evil. For though these marks of his care are repeated every minute, they are feldom acknowledged by feamen. For my own part, I fee dangers fo numerous and imminent, that I should be always in anxiety and fear, could I not submit myself and all my concerns, to Him who holds the waves of the fea in the hollow of his hand, as the prophet strongly expresses it; so that when most enraged by the winds, I am fure they dare not rife a fingle inch beyond his permission.

You have often heard of an oftrich, and perhaps seen one. This bird is common in the northern parts of Africa; and, if travellers may be believed, he has a peculiarity, which, if my friend Æsop had known, he would, I think, have given him a place in his fables. They say, when an

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oftrich is purfued, he usually gets clear by running, if the place is open and plain, (for they are swifter than a horse) but if he be near an enclosure, or wood, he flicks his head into the first bush he can reach; and when he can no longer fee his enemy, he thinks himself safe, and stands quiet till he is caught. We may fmile at this folly in a bird, but how often is it an emblem of our own! When the thing we fear is impending, and before our eyes, we are alarmed; but foon drop our apprehensions, and perhaps are unwilling, to own we had any, when the danger is over, as we fuppose; that is, when we cannot fee it. Our own wisdom, or diligence, or vanity, serve us for a bush; and we little think of the many calamities to which we are equally exposed from other quarters. Though we daily see more people fuffering by what they flighted, than by what they feared. May you and I learn to fear the Lord, and we need fear none but him. He could preferve us fafe and happy, though fire and air,

air, earth and water, men and devils, were to conspire against our peace.

ries me greative if you your affected by

21A September.

How different is to-day from yesterday! The fea hardly feems to be the fame element. The weather is quite fair, the wind moderate, (but still favourable) and the water smooth. When the country is loaded with fnow, and the trees without a leaf. how pleasing is the alteration produced by the returning fpring! The ground, by degrees, is covered with flowers, the woods arrayed in green, and music is heard from every thicket. Seamen often experience as great a change in a few hours; which makes it the more fensible. A little bad weather, now and then, makes the return of fair more pleafant. I feem to-day to breathe a new air, and with a new life.

You are very kind to wish yourself at sea with me; but dearly as I value your company, I could not consent to pay such a price for it. I can easily submit to the inconveniencies

inconveniencies of a fea-faring life while you are fafe on shore; but they would diftress me greatly, if you were affected by them. I am like a prudent merchant, who, not willing to risk his whole fortune in one adventure, leaves the better and larger part of his riches at home; and then, if any thing happens, he can comfort himfelf with the thoughts of a referve.

Excepting the pain of your absence, (which I hope I shall always feel when from you) I have little to disquiet me. My condition when abroad, and even in Guinea, might be envied by multitudes who flay at home. I am as absolute in my small dominions (life and death excepted) as any potentate in Europe. If I fay to one, Come, he comes; if to another, Go, he flies. If I order one person to do something, perhaps three or four will be ambitious of a share in the service. Not a man in the ship must eat his dinner till I please to give him leave; nay, nobody dares to fay it is 12 or 8 o'clock, in my hearing, till

inconveniencies

till I think proper to fay fo first. There is a mighty buftle of attendance when I leave the ship, and a strict watch kept while I am absent, lest I should return unawares, and not be received in due form. And should I stay out till midnight, (which, for that reason, I never do without neceffity) nobody must presume to shut their eyes, till they have had the honour of feeing me again. I would have you judge from my manner of relating these ceremonials, that I do not value them highly for their own fake; but they are old established customs, and necessary to be kept up; for, without a strict discipline, the common failors would be unmanageable. But, in the midst of all my parade, I do not forget (I hope I never shall) what my situation was on board the Harwich, and at the Plantanes.

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While I am writing, the ship keeps running towards you. The wind has been mostly fair for more than a week. Sometimes I almost fancy myself in a dream, and think, Can it indeed be possible, that I am within a few weeks of fo much happiness as a return to you includes? Perhaps I may find you ill-perhaps I may not reach you at all, near as I think myself. Hundreds have perished much nearer home. But all dark thoughts give way to my dependance upon God. I know I do not deserve fo great a bleffing as to be restored to you again. But neither did I deserve to be bleffed with you at first. I hope, arrive when I will, I shall bring home a dispofition to be thankful. I have advanced about 800 miles this week. How many deaths and dangers have I escaped in that fpace! Why then should I fear these that are still before me, if I am always under the same protection?

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At Sea, 26th September.

THE weather is at present very cold, wet, and windy; but, I thank God, my heart is warm and calm. I think of past times, when I have been happy with you, and I count nothing a hardship, that does not interfere with my hope of being fo again. I would not wish to fix the hour myself, because I cannot choose for the best. I suppose myself about 350 miles from Ireland; and I have at times been too impatient to fee it, because I should be fo much nearer to you. But were we now very close to the land, I might, perhaps, wish myself far out at sea again; for the wind, in its prefent degree and direction, which is only inconvenient here, would there be dangerous. How often have I. found, that the accomplishment of my ownfhort-fighted short-sighted designs would have been to my hurt! And yet, alas I feel it difficult to fubmit my concerns to a fuperior management, though I am convinced in my judgment, that I could not order them fo well myself. The story of the Fairy, who would never assign a reason for what she did, but always did right, though some of her proceedings appeared to contradict her promises, I think well suited to illustrate the conduct of Divine Providence, which will furely do us good, if we can humbly trust it, without nicely examining the aptness of the means by which it works. Dr. Parnell's Hermit is a still more solid and satisfying illustration of this subject. How miserable, for instance, must both you and I have been, if my defire had fucceeded, before I had a little learnt how to treat and value you? And how unlikely was the path that I trod for several years, to lead me to your possession? And though I should have thought myself happy, could I have avoided the necessity of leaving you for front-lighted

for the long term of this voyage, yet I am affured, that when we are permitted to meet, we shall both derive advantages from the separation.

The ship has so many motions, that writing (unless to you) would be quite troublesome. So I shall leave off, though I cannot say the tea-kettle boils, nor am I sure that it will, for the sea often puts the fire out. But if you drink your tea in peace, I can make a good shift without any.

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At Sea, and ORober.

I HAVE been prevented from writing in the day, so must try my eyes by candle-light. Indeed, at present, I could not write with pleasure to any one but yourself; for, as I expect every hour to see the land, my head is sull of the charge of a ship valuably laden, and the lives of many people entrusted to my care. Not that I have

have more anxiety than is needful to make me use my best endeavours. For the success of the whole, I can with some comfort depend on the good providence of God; but I must not presume to be preserved by a miracle. It is sufficient if my best diligence is permitted to answer the proposed end; which of itself I am sure it cannot do. The innumerable possibilities of miscarriage to which a ship is liable, are far beyond the reach of human foresight or prevention. It is my mercy to be convinced of this, and, at the same time, to be able to look higher for protection.

When Cæsar was once at sea in a storm, and the mariners themselves were startled at the danger, he is reported to have said, Fear nothing, you carry Cæsar and his fortune. Perhaps I may, with less presumption than he, take some comfort in the thought of my own importance; for though, strictly speaking, I am a mere nothing, I hope I may rank myself with those, to whom all things are promised to work together for good,

good, and that my best interests are fixed upon a foundation that cannot be shaken. When I do give way to fears or withes of a temporal kind, I think it is chiefly on your account. I would be thankful for life, but am in some measure freed from the dread of death, further than for the grief it would occasion to you. I ought to strive to get the better of this thought likewife; but I have not yet attained. In the wretched unthinking part of my life, I was full of fears, which I do not now wonder at. The wonder is, how any one who lives as I then did, can be otherwise. Surely the fudden and various passages from this world to the next, must shock those who have nothing to hope for, but every thing to fear, by the change. The wicked flee when no man purfueth; the shadow of danger discomposes them; and whatever boafts they may make of their courage, it most commonly fails them when most needed, unless they have hardened themfelves beyond the power of reflection. But the

the righteous are bold as a lion. No difficulty can overpower their resolution, when they are in the path of duty.

Were fome gay ladies of your acquaintance to read what I write, they would call much of it, stuff, and preaching; and admire that you have patience to read it. Perhaps a time will come, when fuch will wish they had thought as you do. However, I do not write in this serious strain for your perusal only, but for my own; to quicken my remembrance of the past, when I shall be restored to you, and be in a state of more apparent safety. In hopes that these passages may contribute to the forming of my behaviour then, answerably to my deliberate and cool judgment of things now. That I may not be like the failor who once, in great distress, made a vow to the Virgin Mary, that if she would deliver him, he would prefent her with a wax candle as big as the ship's main-mast; and, on being asked how he would raise money to pay for so large a candle, he said, Let us first

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get on shore, and then the saints will not exact too strictly, upon a sailor's promise.

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WHAT a tafteless unpleasant voyage would this have been, if you had not fecured my happiness before I came out, and given me something to remember, and fomething to hope for, that has supported me at all times; and yet you denied me at first, with so grave a face, and had such absolute command over me, that I had almost taken you at your word. I may be obliged to Mrs. H.'s advice, that I did not fairly give up my fuit; though, upon fecond thoughts, I believe it was more owing to my opinion of your generolity. For I thought, that to fend me away empty again, would argue a felfish caution, of which I could not suppose you capable, without wronging you. So I ventured to touch again upon a subject, on which you had

had positively enjoined me silence. And I remember you forbad me again, but I thought you did not speak in so peremptory a manner as before. In a little time you heard me without interrupting me, and from thence proceeded to argue and object, in a cool, conversible strain. When it came to this, I promised myself success. I remembered that line,

The woman that deliberates is gain'd.

I then began to press my point more closely, till you actually yielded, and gave me your hand in consent; which though I had been so long entreating for, I could not receive without trembling and surprise. I could hardly think myself awake. I never till then was sensible of the force of my love; and I slept that night with a content and sweetness, which I had not known before. I often recollect these circumstances, and the much ado I made about you before marriage, to make me careful that my behaviour now, may be suitable to my

my former professions. But, I thank God, it does not require much care or pains; for to do all in my power to please and oblige you, seems as natural to me, as it is to breathe.

Liverpool, & October.

THE news of my arrival will make this letter, however faulty, welcome to you. I could not write, at present, to any one but yourfelf. I am overfatigued, having been incessantly waking for four days and four nights, which once brought on a temporary delirium, though not so violent as to prevent my knowing what I faid or did. But almost every thing I thought of (yourfelf excepted) feemed to be present before my eyes. But fince I came here, I have had a good nap, which has much refreshed me, and I hope to be quite recovered to-In other respects I am in permorrow. fect health.

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I hope to set out for London as soon as the ship is discharged; but cannot be yet sure. Should another voyage be proposed immediately, I must beg you to submit to the inconvenience of a long journey in the winter! for now there is no ocean between us, we must not be separated, no not for a single hour, without necessity. But I rather hope, and expect, that the lot of travelling will fall to me.

I hope you will rather be pleafed with the knowledge of my being now, so near you, than be grieved that we must wait a little longer, before we meet. For my own part, I have so strong an impression of the dangers I have mercifully escaped, in the course of the last week, that I dare not complain of a little delay; and when the post shall bring me an affurance of your health and peace, I shall cheerfully wait the ordinary course of things.

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May W. 's family, and twhen therey find force after index of some ablence. All the ref

Liverpool, 11 October.

In about fourteen days from this date, I hope to be preparing for London. Mr. M. fays, that about March I may expect to be fummoned again; and then he hopes to fee you with me; and that he will be glad to make his house an agreeable home to you, and charge himself with the care of returning you to London, if you do not choose to reside in Liverpool, while I am abroad. Mrs. M. likewife wishes to see you. She thinks she pays my judgment a compliment, in forming a favourable idea of you before-hand. I fmile, and fay nothing. She will perceive, when the time comes, that any opinion of you, derived only from the knowledge of what I am, must greatly wrong you.

Many welcome me home; but alas, Liverpool, without you, is almost as poor a home to me, as the wildest part of Africa. I only say almost, because I am much in

G 2 Mr.

Mr. M.'s family, and when there, find some alleviation of your absence. All the rest is wearisome and tedious. I enjoy myself best when retired in my room, and especially when I am writing to you.

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IF I could write a quire, I should be unable to express my pleasure on the receipt of your dear punctual favour of the 9th. It is like your kindness, to offer to meet me upon the road, but I beg you to spare yourself the trouble. I do not even defire you to come to London, as I have no business to detain me there, and I should be under some restraint at the house of an acquaintance. The pleasure of having our first interview quite at home, amongst ourfelves, feems worth waiting for a few hours. I am glad you made yourfelf quite easy, upon the news of my departure from Anrigua. But now I am fafely arrived, I may (Hauto) venture venture to tell you, that my passage homewards at this time of the year (the hurricane feason) was the most apparently dangerous part of the voyage: I thought it fo before I failed; and yet I ventured to foretell a happy arrival; because I trusted to that Providence which has never failed me. In effect all proved favourable, and excepting two or three hard gales, I might, for the most part of the way, have come fafely in a Gravesend boat.

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Liverpool, 18 Offober.

I HAVE been fearthing (in vain) for epithets and phrases, but I must stop. They fay, the Greek is a more expressive language than our own; if so, I wish we both understood it, for it is impossible for mere English, to do justice to a twentieth part, of what I have in my mind. Yet I ought not to quarrel with words, left my actions, however well meant, should fall

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equally

equally short of what I owe you. But I know you will kindly value them according to my intention, which I am fure is strong and sincere, to make you every return in my power. I hope foon to name the day of my leaving Liverpool, and shall mind your caution about my health.

control to the fact that the design to for the most part of the way, have come likly in a Gravelend boat. To many and

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SECOND VOYAGE TO AFRICA:

The source and the subword version of the

At Sea, 30 June.

I BEGIN to write, the moment we are under sail, and shall snatch every interval, while my friends stay with me.

The first thing I shall say is, that I am really easy. Though I have no relish for mirth, my mind is at peace. The know-ledge of your love, the recollection of the happy time I have passed with you; and the powerful considerations of a more serious kind, which I have often repeated to you, have all the effect upon me that you could wish. And I assure you the resolution you have shewn has no small influence, both as an example, and in giving me hope that you will strive to be composed, and to depend, with me, upon the good Providence which has already done so much for

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us. I do not complain of being fomething moved at parting; because I should be a wretch indeed, were I infensible of the va-The of what I leave behind. I can from Experience pronounce, that the pains of an affection properly directed, are in no degree proportionable to its pleasures. I already look forward to a time, when ---but I have no words to express myself, for must refer you to our last meeting and November. Such another interview, will be a full amends for the disagreeables, of a long voyage. May the good, and gracious God blefs, and preferve you. Remember my last advice. Be patient and thankful, and expect me, at the best time, to return and be happy with you again. to company and testing the control of

- bejoch beneinist ofte be iv At Sea, it July.

went twelve days ago, I have not written to you fince. We were exercised for some time

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begre thing for me, and mad fixed then bears

time (while near the land) with very thick weather, and westerly winds; and I would not begin my new fea-correspendence till I could tell you (as I thank God I now can) that we are fafely in good fea-room. I am almost ashamed to fay, how easily I bear your absence. Surely it is not that I love you less than formerly; yet I feem to myself, to make a better shift without you, than I ought. Though I think of you continually, and pray for you almost hourly, much oftener than ever, my love, and care for you, are much freed from inquietude, and anxiety. I have my ferious hours; for it is only from ferious thoughts, at fome times, that I can derive considerations, sufficient to make me cheerful, at any time.

I am now fettled in a regular course; for fo far as circumstances will permit, I do every thing by rule, and at a fixed hour. My time is divided into feafons for devotion, study, exercise, and rest; and, thus diversified, no part of it is tedious.

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I have been following you, in my mind, enth-bounders

to London this week, where I hope your arrived in fafety last night; but lest I should be mistaken in the time, I purpose to travel it over again, next week. I have almost difmiffed my fears upon your account, for I have so often recommended and resigned you to the protection of God, that I feldom doubt of his special care over you. But I have bound myself in a strict promife, and engaged to use my whole interest with you, to join me in it, that when He shall be pleased to bring us together again in peace, we will both endeavour to shew gratitude by our conduct, as well as to express it in words. In the mean while, it is one of my daily and nightly petitions, that he may teach us to extract a real good, out of these our painful separations, by improving the occasion to the increasing, and fixing, our best affections on himself. From his favour and goodness all our bleffings, even our mutual love, proceeds. He is able and willing to prosper all our wishes and defires, fo far as they are rightly grounded;

grounded; and from his notice, neither time, nor distance, can separate us. He is an ever-present and an all-sufficient helper.

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able good and decapable towns with a terr

At Sea, 24 July,

I know you have thought of me to-day, because it is my birth-day. I have likewise observed it; but not so properly celebrated, as folemnized it. I would willingly grow wifer and better, as I grow I have now lived older, every year. twenty-seven years, but how few things have I done really worthy of life; unless I am allowed to confider the instances, in which I have endeavoured to shew my affection and gratitude to you, of that number. I have some hope that my remaining time will be better improved; and my prayer and with for you is, that we may be both. of one mind, and prove helps to each other in our most important business; and this will be the most effectual means of fecur-

G 6.

ing peace and fatisfaction, in our inferior concernments. I continue to conceive most of my prayers in the plural number, as when we were together; for every desirable good that I can ask for myself, I am equally solicitous that you should be a sharer in.

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At Sea, 27 July.

I mad nearly missed my post tonight, by attending to our old sea form in
crossing the tropic. This is the boundary
of what the ancients called, the torrid zone.
We crossed, the supposed line of this boundary, to-day. On these occasions, all the
people on board a ship who have not passed it before, are subject to a sine, which,
if they result to pay, or cannot procure,
they must be ducked; that is, hoisted up by
a rope to the yard arm, and from thence
dropped souce into the water. This is
such sine sport to the seamen, that they
would

would rather lose some of the forseiture, (which is usually paid in brandy) than that every body should escape the ducking. And in many vessels, they single out some poor helpless boy or landsman, to be half-drowned for the diversion of his shipmates. But as I do not choose to permit any arbitrary, or oppressive laws to be valid, in my peaceful kingdom, I always pay for those, who cannot pay for themselves. If this poor relation does not entertain you, the thought that I wrote it, and the persuasion that my inclination to send you something better is not wanting, will, I doubt not, make you some amends.

Indeed I am at a loss for a subject.

Suppose, for want of something better, I should observe, that it is a month since we parted. No, that will not do—the word parted has spoiled all. Oh, that morning!

It was a parting indeed! But do not think I am uneasy at the recollection. I only gave way to one tender sigh, and now it is gone. Well, suppose we turn the glassy and

and look forward, to our next hoped for happy meeting? Aye, that is the very thing: at the mention of it, I almost forget that we parted at all. Such a meeting as our last! Well, I am content, and acknowledge that one of those hours will make amends for all. Till that time shall come, all that we have to do is, cheerfully to fill up the part Providence has appointed us, without too anxious folicitude; to pray for each other's welfare, and to endeavour to live under the impression of the bleffings we have already received, or have yet to hope for, from our all-gracious benefactor; and all the rest will in due time come round, and you will find my dependance upon his goodness, to be well founded danger a hi of back governed through percelo 100, chat will not do-cho word

Anida ron ob sull ! by she At Sea, 7 August !

I HAVE no confident now, as I had in my poor doctor last voyage, to whom I can ease my mind a little, by talking of you.

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Intrinsical bearing the believe and having

For my chief mate, though in all other respects much to my fatisfaction, has not that turn of temper, which is requisite to relish the delicacy of the love I bear you; and to those who have not something of a fellow-feeling, my tenderness would appear only a kind of innocent folly. In this, you have greatly the advantage of me: you have friends about you, who will often fpeak of me, because they know it will please you. I would rather have your name fo founded in my ears, than to have Corelli himself entertain me with his own music. For want of this, I am forced to have recourse to my old custom of repeating it foftly to myfelf, praying at the same time, that the happiness I have in you, may be repaid you a thousand fold. not or aleged

So that when I indulge thyself with a particular thought of you, it usually carries me on farther, and brings me upon my knees to bless the Lord, for giving me such a treasure, and to pray for your peace and welfare. I cannot express the pleasure and fatisfaction

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fatisfaction I find in these exercises. When thus engaged, my fears fublide, my impatience of your absence changes into a refignation full of hope, and every anxious uneafy thought is lulled to rest. This is my present temper, nor would I waste a wish for any thing the world can afford beyond the probabilities which lie before me. I like only was about a sign from

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the city of the At Sea, it August.

I NEED not apologize to you for writing so much in a ferious strain; but were an excuse needful, I must plead yourfelf. For when I take up my pen, and begin to confider what I shall fay, I am led to think of the goodness of God, who has made you mine, and given me a heart to value you. Thus my love to you, and my gratitude to him, cannot be separated. And as you are fo good to prize my affection, by finding it thus accompanied, you may

be affured of its being unalterable. All other love, that is not thus connected with a dependance upon God, must be precarious. To this want, I attribute many unhappy marriages. I believe many persons fall from their hopes of satisfaction in that state, by degrees insensible to themselves; and a secret change, or alienation of mind from each other, takes place before they are well aware of it; till, in time, they proceed to such lengths, as they would once have judged impossible.

I am not at a loss to account for this. God has subjected the present state of the world to uncertainty and vanity; not because he is a hard master, but because he sees, if we go on smoothly long, we are prone to forget that our great concern in this life, should be to prepare for another. Now they who, by his grace, are led to consider the great truths of religion, and are taught before the days of trial come, to submit themselves, their designs and enjoyments to his wisdom and guidance, may,

Will a

may, in a great measure, escape the bitterness of evil, or at least the most bitter of those evils, to which mortality is subject: because the merciful design of afflictions is. to them, fo far answered. But they who judge fo ill as to place a dependance upon each other, which interferes with what they owe to their common preserver, oblige him, if I may fo speak, to quash their purpose, either by sickness, sufferings, death, or what to me feems worfe than all, a change of affection, to make them feel their offence in their punishment. I dare not fay, that you and I have not been guilty of this error. But fince it has pleafed God, as yet, to forbear afflicting us for it, I hope, for the future, we shall be more upon our guard, and not farther displease him. the life, thenki be it propine for another

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D. a young gentleman from Scotlings with -ob of his handen and Sierra Leon, 17 August.

WE arrived here the 17th, after a fine, and not very long passage. We had no violent weather, nor painful event, but a visible hand of conducting Providence attended us all the way. I have begun trade, and things appear in a promising Programme sky artistant akt.

I often ask myself, if I know any person upon earth with whom I could be content, in all points, to change; and I can confidently answer, No: for the knowledge and enjoyment of your love, enable me to look with pity upon kings, and I would not part with what I now feel upon your account, for the treasures of both the of his notice, even in Guined. Bus sibal

.d radotto the noon of night, as Shakef-

bauliced.

THE Hunter, which will fail in a few days, has a large pacquet for you; and I have further fent you a few lines by Mr.

lieve his expectations have been much

D. a young gentleman from Scotland, who is on board her. He has promifed to deliver my letter in person, though he has no business at C-, but to oblige me, by feeing you; that he may answer any little questions you may ask, or inform you of fome incidents which I may have omitted. It is not easy to say, what pleasure I could take in conversing with any person, who had lately been with you; and I judge of you, by myself. In other respects, he is an agreeable man, and I have been much pleased with him. I am informed he has a tolerable eftate in Scotland; but having an eager defire of feeing new things, after having made the tour of France, he thought there might be fomething worthy of his notice, even in Guinea. But I believe his expectations have been much baulked.

It is now the noon of night, as Shakefpeare somewhere expresses it. I left Sierra Leon this morning. I am very sleepy,
but must not go to bed yet; being often
obliged

obliged to watch, when the ship is under fail. This I submit to cheerfully, because you have, before-hand, overpaid me for my trouble. I have been praying for your calm repose, and am pleased with the hope, that only one of us is kept waking. I pity those, who have only dull interest to animate them in their business; and am furprised to see how powerful an inducement this is, to them who have not a better. But I believe love would support me through more, and with more alacrity, than their plodding motive. When I am wearied, or perplexed, with any affair, I have only to reflect that I am employed upon your account, and that I may look for my reward from you, when I have done my work, or rather, that you rewarded me before I undertook it, and all difficulties presently disappear.

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Shebar, 31 October.

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Since my last, I have been a week on shore, and three or sour days indisposed; but am now, I thank God, quite recovered. Your letter of the 12th July came very seasonably, to comfort me in my illness. When you assure me that you are easy, I seem to have nothing to make me otherwise.

I have been fitting very gravely with my pen in my hand for some minutes, waiting for a thought to begin with; but with so little success, that, were it not to you, I should lay the paper aside, till I was in a better cue. But to you something must be said. I have rung so many changes upon love and gratitude, upon the pains of separation, and the overbalancing pleasures of meeting, that though I cannot be weary of the subjects, I begin to be weary of my way of treating them. But then, where shall I find other subjects worthy either of your attention or my own?

ROME

Were

Were I to muster up my learning, and tell you what Plato or Cicero faid, and upon what occasion they faid it, I should think the paper might have been filled more acceptably to you, by a speech of my own. Were I to fend you a fample of philosophy, you might justly fay, This is but a cold business. Shall I then try to be witty? Alas! one tender thought, one figh that terminates in your dear name, would spoil my conceit. I can think but of one subject more, and that perhaps T have, already, overdone likewife, unless I could do it better. But perform well or ill, you have little to expect from me but either love letters, or fermons. In all other topics, I feel a vanity and unimportance which difgusts me, when I am writing to you. But I cannot be foon weary of reminding you and myself, of our obligations to the author of all good, for our distinguished lot. May a grateful sense of his mercies be mutual! May it engage us in fuch a course, that death itself may not separate parate us long, but that we may have a well grounded hope of meeting in a state, when the recollection of our highest endearments while here, which are surely the highest pleasure this world can afford, shall, by our own confession, be but a small thing, compared with the abounding joys to which we shall then be admitted. And when we may have reason, through eternal ages, to bless the divine providential hand, that first brought us together.

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pleasantly. It is my watch, for the ship is under sail. These silent night hours, when the weather is fair, are, to me, the most agreeable part of the voyage: for in the day time, the heat of the sun, the smoke of the surnace, and the hurry of trade, are a little troublesome; I mean they would be so, did not the thoughts of you interpose to enliven

enliven the scene. But when the fun is fet, the fires out, and all, but the Watch, are asleep, I can enjoy myfelf without disturbance. I have a fet of favourite themes to muse upon, which are always at hand, and cannot be easily exhausted. Sometimes, I ruminate upon what is past, at others, anticipate what I hope is to come. And fomerimes, I look round me, and reflect how God has been pleased to diftinguish me, in his providence, not only from the crowds, whose miseries and sufferings are obvious, but even from the most of those who suppose themselves, and would perfuade others, that they are happy. But fo scanty are the general notions of earthly happiness, compared with mine, that I doubt not, there are thousands in possession of great outward advantages, who yet, in their brightest intervals, never felt half of the fatisfaction, which at this moment warms my heart; though now it is a time of trial and exercise with me, being removed, a third of the globe, from the only VOL. I. treafure

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treasure I have, or wish for, upon the sur-

It is now a twelvemonth fince we met, after the long absence of my last voyage. The recollection of that hour, gives me a pleasure, which neither time, nor distance can impair. And when I resect, that I may hope, by the blessing of God, to be favoured with such another, I can smile at all the little incidental dissiculties, that may stand between us. Not that I have reason to think so highly of that one particular day; it has only the merit of being an introduction to the many which followed. For when I am with you, I know little difference of days, except between the first, and the last. These are very different indeed!

Cape Mount, 20 November.

It has been out of my power to write of late. A part of the time, I was on shore, and the rest, indispensably engaged.

ft intervals, never

gaged. But my prayers, and warmest affection for you, have found a place in every waking hour. I have made no great progress in trade as yet, but as I am in good health, and mercifully preserved from heavy troubles, I am content and thankful; and doubt not of doing well at last, by the bleffing of him, who has been with me hitherto. Were I master of the whole coast of Africa, I would part with it, to procure you the same ground, and degree of peace, which I possess myself; and I am willing to hope, that you are, by this time, not far, if at all behind me: for if you feek it in the path I recommended to you, I am as fure you will find it, as I am that it is to be found no where else. Were I to confine my thoughts to the dark fide of human life, and reckon up, not only the evils attendant on my present situation, but the numberless calamities to which the smoothest state, on this side the grave, is exposed, I should be always in fear, both for you and for myfelf. But when I confider H 2 that

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that the Most High is on our side, that he is all-sufficient—that we have already had innumerable proofs of his goodness to us—and that his promise runs, To him that hath shall be given—then every disagreeable prospect vanishes.

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Mana, 1 December.

This day has been devoted to ferious thoughts. I have had Mr. T— on board with me a month; which, in one respect, was no small inconvenience, by breaking in upon my usual times of retirement. As I expected this would be a day of leisure, I resolved last night, to dedicate it to Him, to whom I owe my all. I find, by repeated experience, that it is impossible to serve him for nought. I who was, yesterday, sluctuating and unsettled, am now, composed and happy. It is a pleasure to me, that, in consistence with my plan, I can let you have your hour too; and write a letter

a letter which you will accept, in a re-

I spent the forenoon chiefly in a review of the various mercies I have received, the long lift of my deliverances, enjoyments, and comforts.-The afternoon was employed in making known my requests, and fubmitting my views, defigns, and hopes, to the disposal of my heavenly Father, whose wisdom and goodness are; I trust, engaged for me. In these exercises, Oh! how I remember you! My first acknowledgments are, for your love, and that you are mine, when I attempt to enumerate the bleffings pertaining to this life; and my first defire is, for la heart to value ditem. My prayers for you are, for your health, peace, and fatisfaction, while we are sept rated, and for our happy meeting; but labove all, for your progress in religion, will that you may have a prospect of happinel, independent of all earthly comforts and fuperior to them. So difinterefted is my love, that I often earnestly pray you may,

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by grace, be prevented from making too much account of any thing on this fide the grave, not excepting myfelf. For though I value your affection beyond crowns and empires. I tremble at the thought of being over-regarded, or that you fhould wholly reft your peace, upon fuch a wretched, feeble prop, as I am. A love with all our heart, and mind, and foul, and ftrength, (fuch, I fear, ours has too much been to each other) can be only due to our maker and great benefactor. I mention this, because I have found it hard to distinguish in this matter A long time it was, before I durst appeal to my conscience, that I did not behold you with a regard, which belongs only to God. And even to this day, I fear my heart deceives me. But I am endeavouring to avoid this error; no less for your fake than for my own s left I should provoke him to wound me in the most lensible part, and to afflict you, for nefs, to be two very diffinamaliada van

I hope you will not misunderstand me,

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as if I thought I loved you, or could love you, too much (that one necessary exception only excepted). You may be affured that my love (especially when thus limited) is incapable of change, and always upon the increase. Whatever may be expected on my fide, from a temper naturally fusceptive of tenderness, and from the many inexpreffible endearments and obligations I have received from you, none of which are lost or forgotten by me, I feel at this moment, and trust I shall always feel, while I can subscribe myself, it was

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रेलक हमार पर रिश्तमातिको जनक सन्तर्भातिक Cape Mount, 25 December. L

I now fit down to wish you a happy Christmas; a merry one, is a frequent phrase, but that falls far short of my defire. For I have often found mirth and happiness, to be two very different things; and that either of them, when prevalent in a Poli

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My heart is warm with the recollection of many endeared hours passed with you, when my happiness has been, for the time, complete, and yet I have not then selt the least inclination to be merry; and I have not been forced into a laugh, when I have not been pleased.

This has been a ferious day with me, and, after what I have written already, I need not attempt to fay, how much you have been concerned in it. It grieves me to think, that this is usually a feafon of feltivity and diffipation. Surely they, who think proper to notice it at all, should shew their attention in a different manner. If we are really christians, and do indeed believe the tenor of the scriptures, with what ferious thankfulness, and joyful composure, ought we to commemorate the coming of a Saviour into the world? If the little good offices, we perform to each other, demand a grateful return, what do we owe to him, who of his own free mo-) HILL tion 346019

tion and goodness humbled himself so far, and fuffered fo much, to redeem us from extreme, and endless misery? Ohl my dearest M. it is a most certain truth, that if he had not pitied us, we must have been for ever wretched. And if we continue to neglect him now, our milery will be aggravated, by the refusal of the sure, and only mean of relief. And however a round and series of what the world miscals pleafure, may stifle uneasy thoughts for a time, they will at length awake, to the confusion of all who despise this mercy, and die impenitent. My fubject has almost made me forget I am writing to you. For, bleffed be God, I hope we are not like them. I trust we both defire to be wise in time, and to apply, to the giver of all grace, for that fufficiency, which of ourfelves we cannot attain. And if we ask, we undoubtedly shall fucceed. This hope fills my mouth with praise, fince I now see a plain and secure path, to eternal happiness, not for myfelf only, but for you likewife, whose wel-

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fare, if I mistake not, is little less dear to me, then that of my own soul. I find, as Solomon says, that love is stronger than death; for my regard for you, often leads my views beyond the grave, and alleviates the thought, that we must sooner or later be separated here, with the prospect of being joined hereafter, upon much presentle terms; where our love will be refined and ennobled, and the consciousness of our being mutually and for ever happy, will fill us with a joy of which we have no present conception; and yet, perhaps, this joy, will be among the least, in that happy state.

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WERE it not for the late alteration of the stile, this would be new year's day. It is with a pleasing kind of regret I remember how happily I began the task year, and

and how happy I continued for just fix months afterwards. The latter half of the year has been of a different colours for tho' I have, even now, much to be thank ful for, I am absent from you. A sea-faring life has its peculiar trials, and difficulties, and the Guinea trade perhaps has more than any other. But if I must be detained from you for a feafon, I am as well here, as elsewhere; for to live without you, constitutes the very effence of Guinea to me, fo far as the word expresses a difagreeable fituation; and I hope and believe, I should find myself as much at a lofs, and figh as often for formething better, if I lived in the palace of Verfailles, and could call it my own, unless you were with me. But when I direct my thoughts forward, to the prospect of being restored to you again, the scene changes at once, and I feem to be at Verfailles already.

It may be faid, that my hopes are precarious, and may be disappointed. But heir, Religion comes to my aid, and tells me, that my best interest, though apparently contingent, is in effect firm as a rock; being supported by him, whose wisdom, power, and goodness, are infinite; who cannot but be prefent with me in all difficulties and dangers; who knows our weakneffes and our wants, and has promised to relieve and supply them. My own experience has convinced me a thousand times, that his promise is sure. Here is my refuge and comfort. Every other expedient would fail me in some tender hours, when I think of home; but in the trust I have just mentioned, I find repose, when, seemingly, most destitute and forlorn. My prayers are frequent, that you, like me, may always derive comfort, from the fame confiderations.

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Though to be absent from you, is the chief part of my trial, it is not the whole. In this unhappy country, I am is the

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the midst of scenes, not only inferior, but opposite, to those which are inseparable from your company. But from being much among a people, who are fo far from possessing such mercies, as I am favoured with, that they are unable to form a conception of them, I may learn a lesson of gratitude; fince the least pleasing part of my life is fuch, as still to leave me room to pity millions of my fellow creatures. The three greatest bleffings of which human nature is capable, are, undoubtedly, Religion, Liberty, and Love. In each of thefe, how highly has God diftinguished me! But here are whole nations around me, whose languages are entirely different from each other, yet I believe they all agree in this, that they have no words among them, expressive of these engaging ideas: from whence I infer, that the ideas themselves, have no place in their minds. And as there is no medium between light and darkness, these poor creatures are not only strangers to the advantages which I enjoy, but are plunged plunged in all the contrary evils. Inflead of the present bleffings, and bright future prospects of Christianity, they are deceived and haraffed, by necromancy, magic, and all the train of superstitions, that fear, combined with ignorance, can produce in the human mind. The only liberty of which they have any notion, is an exemption from being fold; and even from this, very few are perfectly secure, that it shall not, some time or other, be their lot: for it often happens, that the man, who fells another, on board a ship, is himself bought and fold, in the fame manner, and perhaps in the same vessel, before the week is ended*. As for love, there may be fome testology war I believe they tell agreet in this

The reader may perhaps wonder, as I now do myfelf, that, knowing the state of this vile trassic to be as I have here described, and abounding with enormities which I have not mentioned, I did not, at the sime, start with horror at my own employment, as an agent in promoting it. Custom, example, and interest, had blinded my eyes. I did it ignorantly; for I am sure, had I thought of the slave trade then, as I have thought of it since, no considerations would have induced

fofter fouls among them, than I have met with, but for the most part, when I have tried to explain this delightful word, I

and haraffed by necromancy, magic, and

induced me to continue in it. Though my religious views were not very clear, my confcience was very tender, and I durft not have displeased God, by acting against the light of my mind. Indeed a slavethip, while upon the couft, is exposed to such innumerable and continual dangers, that I was often then, and still am, astonished that any one, much more so many, should leave the coast in fafety. I was then favoured with an uncommon degree of dependance upon the providence of God, which supported me; but this confidence must have failed in a moment, and I should have been overwhelmed with diffress and terror, if I had known; or even suspected, that I was acting wrong. I felt the disagreeableness of the business very strongly. The office of a gaoler, and the restraints under which I was forced to keep my prifoners, were not fuitable to my feelings; but I confidered it as the line of life which God, in his providence, had allotted me; and as a cross which I ought to bear with patience and thankfulness, till he should be pleased to deliver me from it. Till then, I only thought myfelf bound to treat the flaves under my care with gentleness, and to consult their case and convenience, as far as was confiftent with the fafety of the whole family, of whites and blacks, on board my Chip. It and the at wealth and periodical at head construct to 1

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have feldom been in the least understood: and when I have spoken of its effects, I have never been believed. To tell them of the inexpressible, and peculiar attraction, between kindred minds; the pains of abfence, the pleasures of a re-meeting (if I may make a word,) and all the other endearments, (were it lawful, or possible to name them,) which I owe to you, would be labour loft; like describing the rainbow, to a man born blind. What needs all this ado, they have faid, will not one woman cut wood and fetch water, as well as another? Their passions are strong, but few, indeed, have any notion of what I mean by tenderness, While I am writing, many palt circumstances occur to my memory, and my heart swells at the odious comparifon I have unawares made.

I have heard England stiled the paradise of women, but furely, in this respect, it is no less the paradife of men likewife; for there, perhaps, they best understand the enspriidge, when I thall probably leave it,

means of their own happiness, and of how much importance it is, to form a right judgment of the dignity and value of your sex; which, whoever attains, thereby indicates, that he possesses some degree of dignity in himself. In saying this, to be sure, I sound my own praise, but you will excuse me.

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Shebar, 5 March.

It is often remarked, that advice is more eafily given, than followed. I have of late, and perhaps, sometimes too officiously, taken occasion to prescribe patience, when I have seen people uneasy under a sense of what we call disappointments, and want of success. Providence seems at length to put me to the trial, how far the arguments I have used with others, will have influence upon myself. I have been now near seven months upon the coast, and am yet unable to judge, when I shall probably leave it, and

and must expect to make a losing voyage, at last. (I should not write so frankly, but that I hope to be in a better place, and upon a greater certainty, before I send my letter home.) But I am willing to give you my present thoughts, that you may judge, once for all, how I am supported, when things do not answer my wishes.

The interest of my employers, and my long confinement from you, are two points, to which I cannot be indifferent. I hope, I never shall, for then I must be ungrateful or insensible, either of which, appears more terrible to me, than any outward evils. But then my concern ought to be no more than is necessary, to excite me to make the most of what lies before me. As I cannot charge myself with neglect, or any confiderable sale step, though I am forry to be the occasion of loss to my friends, the thought should not break my peace, if I am conscious of having done my best.

As to what concerns myself; how far two unsuccessful voyages may affect my interest. interest, or diminish my expected profits, I am tolerably easy. I have placed my dependance higher; I consider my friends and employers, as instruments in the hand of God, for my good. He can continue them to me, or raise me up better, with equal eafe. As to money, you know my thoughts of it. In itself, and as an end, it is of no value; but of use, as a mean of procuring the conveniencies of life; and therefore I am willing to embrace any honourable terms, for procuring a competency: but still, without solicitude. I have enough for the present; and the promise of God, warrants me to hope for what he fees needful for me, in time to come.

In this manner, I reason against my first grievance, which is neither fo preffing, nor fo constantly upon my mind, as the other, my long separation from you. Money matters affect me but occasionally, and I can relieve myself by employments or amusements; but your idea is before me at all times, and in all places. You are with

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with me in retirement, and go with me into company: neither business nor relaxation, neither hurry nor indolence, can hide you from my thoughts. Every thing I fee, equally reminds me, that you are abfent; and now the season is drawing near when we hoped to meet; and yet, to be still deferred. - However, against this uneafiness, I have some remedies, which never wholly fail me .- I have often repeated them to you: I think of your love, and that I am here for your fake,-I recollect the past, I anticipate the future, and am fatisfied. I confider likewife, the benefits I am favoured with, even now; my health, my preservation and protection, while furrounded with impending dangers, whether on ship-board, or on shore; and when I join to these, the thought of my own unworthiness, and small improvement of my mercies; and my blindness, and inability to choose (was it even permitted me) what is really best, upon the whole, for myself, or for you, I have not a word

to fay. Instead of complaining, I ought to abound in praise. My chief trouble is from a fear, left you should not have the fame refignation to the will of God. Excuse this doubt, my dearest, I know your temper is tender and apprehensive; and I know (and I am not ungrateful) that you feel much for me. Though I value your love more than a thousand kingdoms, I could almost wish to possess it, in a degree more confistent with your quiet. It is well the paper is full, that I can add no more, or perhaps I might contradict myfelf upon the spot, for my last affertion. How could I bear that you should love me less than you do! had and in mont a ne motioni

in to suggest the Sierra Leon, 23 March. Sometimes in travelling, when I have met with two or three different roads, and have not been fure which was the right, I have deliberated a little, and then gravely taken the wrong. So it often happens

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happens in my writing to you. When I beat the bush of my brains for a subject, I start so many, that I know not which to follow; and at last perhaps choose that, which I am the least able to manage. have been fitting in a wife fuspense, whether I should try to divert, or advise, or thank you. I am awkward at the first, the fecond, if needful (for I would not pay you a false compliment) is difficult for me to perform rightly, and the third, I have almost worn threadbare, though I have never expressed the half of my meaning. Then for other things, one day here, is fo like another, that there hardly arises a new incident in a month; which, by the bye, demands my acknowledgment, for life is usually chequered with many events, which when well managed by an impatient temper, may furnish whole sheets, yea quires of complaints. And as nothing extraordinary occurs in my own history, neither do I hear of any thing very interesting among the natives-politics or scandal have

have little place in this country:—Under these cirumstances I am hard put to it to write any thing, and this difficulty I have made so often, not only an excuse but a subject, that I am tired of that likewise. But as when a man is thoroughly hungry, he will eat, what would once have seemed hard fare, so rather than forego the pleasure of writing to you, I make shift with any thing, that will serve to fill up the paper.

Bence Ifland, 30 March.

I am now at the factory, in the river of Sierra Leon. We are at length preparing for sea, and I hope to find all in readiness when I return from Sherbro, where I purpose going to-morrow, in the long boat, to finish my business in that river, and hope to be back in about a fortnight. Therefore, as it will be some time before I can write to you, I would not omit tonight, though we are very busy. I hope this will be the last cruize I shall make this

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this voyage. I have had so many, that I should be almost weary, did I not consider that your interest leads me, and that your love will, I hope, in due time, pay me for my trouble.

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Bence Mand, 10 April.

By the mercy of God I am returned, fafe and well, from my voyage in the long boat, without meeting any harm, though not without some fatigue; but that is always welcome for your fake. No one here can guess by my looks, or behaviour, how much of my heart is in another quarter of the world. In short, you would not yourself desire, that I should bear you rabsence better than I do; yea I fear, if you could fee me, you would suspect me of in-But I should beg you to take difference. my word, rather than judge by appearances. I hope to be, in a few days, on my way to the West Indies, whither my thoughts have often gone before me, in expectation of finding letters from you, which, next to your company, is the greatest pleasure I can think of. Let those be pleased with letters-patent, who can be fatisfied with honours and riches: if I do not absolutely despise these things, I can pronounce themtrifles, when compared with the fatisfactions of mutual love, which fo far refemble the joys of a good conscience, that nothing adventitious, can either give them, or take them away. They who possess an affluence of all other temporal good, if devoid of this generous tenderness, are, in my view, objects of pity.—I speak, as St. Paul fays, after the manner of men, for notwithstanding all my encomiums upon love, I hold it to be very dangerous, and indeed destructive, unless regulated, and governed by a due fense of religion.

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Bence Island, 19 April.

I HAVE been very happy this evening, in a folitary ramble round this island. I studiously avoided all company, and chose a retired walk, where I could vent my thoughts aloud, without fear of being overheard. The night was perfectly fine, and ferene, and I was favoured with a frame of mind, that I cannot always command. The ship was in fight at a small distance, which gave the first turn to my meditations. My thoughts went back to the time, when I first faw her upon the stocks, in the builder's yard; and from thence led me to review the different scenes in which I have been engaged, fince I left Liverpool; which furnished me with so many instances of a kind, preserving Providence, that I was, in a remarkable manner, emboldened, and encouraged, to recommend the rest of the voyage, to the same gracious protection. May I never forget this night! I could

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not be long in the exercise of prayer and praife, without interesting you largely in it; and I think, I never prayed more earnestly for myself, than I have to-night for you. I am now, quite easy and composed, which is the nearest approach to happiness, that I desire in this world, when I am not with you. Manager Manager and All Street

वास्त्राह्म विकास विकास करते हैं।

Plantanet, 25 April.

ACCEPT this letter as a proof, that in the midst of company and business, I am still thinking of you. I write, and talk, and trade, at the same time. I am now to inform you, that I am just finishing; and hope to fail this night, or to-morrow morning, for St. Christopher's. I completed eight months upon the coast, yesterday; in which time, I have feen a variety of scenes, and have often been upon the brink of apparent danger, but am preserved in health, and safety, hitherto. If I call my long stay, a disappointment, I would

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would remember, that former disappointments, by the over-ruling providence and goodness of God, have proved, in the event, to my advantage; and I trust it will be so ftill. Thus I often preach to you, and you will not wonder, that having your peace of mind more at heart, than any thing that can be named, I should be frequently inculcating, what I believe, yea what I am very fure, will be most conducive to it. If you could form a judgment of the numberless escapes and deliverances I met with, last voyage, I think you would never fear for me again. I have now a better ship, and ship's company, and am better provided than then. I leave this, with a large pacquet enclosed, to go by a vessel which is expected to fail in about three weeks, directly for England; and will probably arrive there, before you can hear of me from the West Indies. from interest processor, encountries

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If I can contrive any thing to fay, I hope now, to be more regular in my correspondence; for I have left the greater part of the cares and troubles, which used to divide my thoughts and time, behind me in Africa. I am now about three hundred miles on my way to St. Kitt's, and hope to get the trade wind soon, which will be fair for the rest of the passage.

I lately enclosed you four sheets, which bring the history of my voyage down to the 12th February. I have sent you twelve in all, by different conveyances, besides their covers, which were not blank paper. For all this, I charge your account, as the merchants say; or rather I acknowledge myself still your debtor, for the savourable reception I know they will find, and which they are no farther entitled to, than as proofs of an inclination to please. If there is merit in that, I shall

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not affect so much modesty, as to disclaim it; for it is the business, and glory, of my life, to endeavour to act up to those professions, which first induced you to confide My mind runs fo much upon the wished-for pleasure of letters from you, when I arrive at St. Kitt's, that I often dream I have them in my hand, and when awake, am often dictating for you; and by reading those I have already received, I can make Arrewd gueffes, how kind and good you will appear, in those which are yet to come. But when I have done my best, I persuade myself that I shall find, as I have usually done in all relating to you, that my expectations will not only be anfwered, but exceeded. paratical For all thes, I charge

At Sea, 7 May.

I was sensibly disappointed, in missing the letter you mention obliging me with, by a ship from London. I should have found,

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found, in that, fome particulars of your long journey. How gladly would I have prevented you the inconvenience of that long and lonely journey, if performing it for you myself on foot, could have done it. As it was, I could only attend you with my thoughts, and prayers. How much am I indebted to the divine goodness, for restoring you home in fafety and peace. The mention of footing it, reminds me of my folitary walk to Liverpool, in the year 48. Solitary indeed it was then; but could I have known, that the time was coming, when you would accompany me on the fame road, I should have thought it pleasant, in defiance of heat, dust, and fatigue. But my only business at London, which was with you, I left unfinished: I was short of money, destitute of friends, without prospect of a livelihood for myfelf, and still more, of having it in my power, to make proposals to you; and therefore, had nothing to cheer me. When I recollect these dark seasons, I can-

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not but paufe, to wonder at the goodness of God, who was even then leading me, though I neither knew him, nor the way by which I went. How wonderfully was every obstacle to our union removed; and how happy has that event been (I hope I may fay) to us both. I might have proved a wretch, infensible and ungrateful, when I had gained my point. Such, I fee, is the folly, and inconstancy of many. But my fatisfaction has been still upon the increase; and, so far as happiness is attainable here, I think I have known it, and with as few drawbacks, for the time, as any person living. s dilw, asimusmo,

At Sea, 18 May.

We are now about half-way to St. Christopher's from Guinea, in point of distance, and I hope nearer in respect of time, as we are in the trade wind, which blows most of the year from the eastern quarter.

Though

Though I count the days, and hours, I am from you, my time does not hang heavy upon my hands: a part of it is employed, twice or thrice a day, in praying for you; a part of it in reading, and studying the bible. The rest of my leisure is divided between reading, writing, and the mathematics, as my inclination leads. I pass my verdict upon the actions of Cæfar, Pompey, and twenty other hot-headed heroes of antiquity; and when I reflect upon their mighty defigns, their fatigues and rifks, and at last their disappointments, even when they attained the defired object; I ask myfelf, fometimes with a smile, What triffes are these compared with love? Sometimes with a figh, What trifles are these compared with eternity? The latter queftion brings my censure home to myself; and forces me to confess, that the greater . part of my own schemes and prospects, are no less vanities, than those which I pity in others. I am pleased with the mathematics, because there is truth, and certainty in them,

them, which are feldom found in other branches of learning. Yet even in these, I am discouraged; for the more I advance, the more clearly I perceive, that the greatest human knowledge, amounts but to a more pompous proof of our ignorance, by fhewing us how little we know of any thing, and how many inquiries may be started, concerning which, we can know nothing. Then again, what we can attain, requires fo much time and pains, that it scarcely quits cost; especially, as it seems needless to toil for knowledge, in this world, under fo many disadvantages, when, possibly, before I have been an hour within the vail. I shall know more, intuitively, than my name-fake, Sir Isaac, had ever a glimpse of. However, I still jog on in this road, partly, to keep me from idleness, which is the fource either of fin, or disquiet; and partly, because I consider every little improvement I can make, to be valuable, fo far as it may enable me to appear to more advantage, in the character of your husband. I EXPECT e thems.

notices of learning. Yet even in constru

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At Sea, 28 May.

I expect that we are now, within three or four days fail of our port. Thus far we have croffed the ocean again, without trouble or harm.

I hope you will derive encouragement and thankfulness by recollecting, from what you may have heard or feen, how many persons in my way of life, have parted from their families and affections, fince-I left you, and with no lefs pleafing profpects and probabilities; who, before this time, have been cut off from the hope of a return. One instance I shall mention. because I think you know the man: Mr. -, who failed, chief-mate of the Adlington. He had a conflitution likely towear many years, a good character and interest, and a wife and family. He had been mafter of a ship in some home trade, but chose to go as mate, to Guinea, one voyage, to introduce himself into this line

of business. His views would probably have been answered, if he had lived. But he was killed, in an insurrection of the slaves, before he had been two months upon the coast.

If this story, and many more of the fame kind, which the common newfpapers will furnish, should increase your fears for me, I shall be forry; and must say, The fault will be in yourself. I am still fafe, though I was liable to the fame danger. My flaves likewise were, for a time, disposed to be very troublesome; but I was always providentially favoured, with a timely intimation of their defigns; fo that they never proceeded to open difturbance; and for feveral months past, they have been as quiet and tractable, as children. Having had so many repeated proofs of a gracious, and always present, Protector, I think it would be not only folly, but ingratitude and fin, to diffrust him now. So that even with regard to yourfelf, though you are unspeakably the dearest dearest blessing, and comfort of my life, for whose sake chiesly it is, that all other advantages appear desirable; and though I have no information of your welfare, later than of nine months date, yet I cannot say that I am uneasy. While I hear nothing to the contrary, I shall trust, pray, and believe, that the Lord still preserves you, in mercy to us both, and will, in good time, bring us happily together again.

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John Mine and St. Christopher's, 3 June.

We arrived here in fafety last night. I can say little more, as I expect to be called on for my letter, every minute; and I would not miss the opportunity, if I could only send a single line. I seel enough in my own disappointment, to oblige me to be punctual. I promised myself many letters from you, upon my arrival here: judge then (if you can) how much I am chagrined, not to find even one. I am sure

it is not owing to any neglect of yours; and though I have not heard from you so long, I am not quite uneasy. I have committed you into the hands of God, whose goodness abounds to me daily. On him I depend, and endeavour to think, No news is good news.

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Sandy Point, St. Kitt's, 8 June.

I INFORMED you the 3d of my arrival, but was then, too busy to enlarge. I have, now, leisure enough, but must consess I write with a heavy heart. I cannot account for having no letters from you, after so many months, if you are well. — But I endeavour to compose myself, by a submissive dependance upon the providence of God, to whom I have so often, and so earnestly, commended you. For my peace sake, I try to suppose that the letters I so longed for, have, by some means, miscarried. I will endeavour not to mention this subject any more, but I cannot promise to forget

forget it. In every other point, I have all possible fatisfaction. Most of the cargo is fold, and at a good price. I hope the loss upon the voyage will prove inconfiderable, and I believe my own interest in it, will be better than in the former. I was going to add, as usual, that I expect my best reward from you, but this thought gave rife to another, which drew from me a heart-felt figh. But I remember my promise. I have fent a boat up to Antigua, upon the peradventure, that your letters may have been lodged for me there. I know a separation must at some time take place, but I hope, and pray, it may be deferred till we have more strength to bear it. A perfect acquiescence in the will of God, could we attain it, would be worth more than mountains of gold, and filver. I know, as I have often faid, that our concerns are under the best and kindest management. I know who brought us together, and has bleft us with a mutual affection; for want of which, marriage is a clog and burden to thousands.

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And he knows our passions, and our weakness; and, unless we over-rate the comforts he bestows, will never deprive us of them, but with a design of giving us something still better, in their room.

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from you, but this thought give red to

Sandy-Point, 12 June.

I HAVE fent away all my spare fheets, and shall take care to be constantly provided with formething, for every opportunity. But to what purpose do I write, when perhaps my dear M. may be past the power of reading? Indeed I find it a heavy talk now, to what it used to be. But fince I am not quite without hope of your welfare, (which is the very best I can say) I must write on, lest I should subject you to an anxiety, like that which I now feel. I am forced to assume an air of cheerfulness in company, but maugre all my precautions, I often discover myself to be an La might hypocrite, hypocrite, by my involuntary fighs: and at night I dream, I know not what.

Yet when you read this, do not think I was unhappy when I wrote it. My hopes, for the most part, prevail; and I consider, even now, that if we meet happily at last, I shall soon be overpaid for all my care. Under such a disappointment as this, it is necessary, either that I should not be quite easy, or that I should love you less than I do. You will allow the former evil to be a mere trisle, compared with the other.

I have informed my owners, that I cannot undertake to do any thing upon the Windward coast next season, the trade is so overdone. If they will send me, I am ready to go, but I will not be blamed in case of ill-success, for not honestly giving my opinion. If they take my advice, perhaps they may send me to some other part of the coast, or to some other part of the world. I am indifferent as to the how, or where, provided I may be permitted sometimes to tell you, it is all for your sake;

and to hear you fay, that you accept it

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Sandy-Point, 21 June.

I HAVE fent you feveral letters and pacquets fince my arrival. I cannot now complain as formerly, for want of a subject. I have one with which I could fill many sheets, but have promifed not to touch upon it, if I can help it. So that I am at prefent under a double difficulty: It is equally hard for me, to write what would entertain you, or to refrain from what I know would grieve you. Well, I must fubmit. My happiness with you is such, that all incidental pains, and uneafineffes, feem mere triffes, when either past or to come, however hard to bear when prefent. My pleasures, on the contrary, whether at the time, in recollection, or in prospect, always afford me confolation. Thus though there is, ftrictly speaking, more evil than good in life, yet Providence so orders it,

or at least so orders my share, that I find a little of the real good, overbalances a great deal of the evil. My fears and uncertainties upon your account, are much preferable to my being a mercenary wretch, incapable of valuing you, as I ought. When I confider how many I fee, who are blind to the merit of their wives, because they are secure of them, I learn how much I owe to the Lord, for bleffing me with the knowledge of my true interest, and a mind fusceptive of tenderness and sensibility.

I believe, I was rather sparing of my promises, in the time of courtship; at least I engaged for no more than is usual on fuch occasions; but it has been my happiness fince, to endeavour to act fully up to what I had faid. And I now fee, by the conduct of many who treat fuch things as matters of course, how nearly my duty and my pleasure were united, and how miserable I must have been, if capable of wronging the confidence you placed in me. I fee that those who cannot find their satishope factions

And thus I understand the literal meaning of the word Diversions; which are only, or chiefly, agreeable to those, who wish to turn their thoughts from their own situation. What numbers are there, who frequent the theatres, affemblies, balls, and all the various scenes of dissipation, without being really pleased for one half hour, either with themselves, or with any body, or thing, around them. They languish continually for a change, and rather than continue in the same pursuit, are willing to change for the worse.

A letter from Liverpool, dated 5 April, informs me of the death of our friend Mrs. M.—. What a striking lesson! A beautiful woman, in the bloom of youth, with gay hopes and prospects, cut off in the first year of marriage! As you mentioned her being with child, I think it probable that she died in child-bed. Alas! the vanity of this world and all its enjoyments! How little do we know what to wish for! I hope

hope I shall always be contented and pleased, if it should please God that you never have to encounter that terrible risk. How could I bear to confider myfelf as the immediate, though innocent, cause of your death! I own that children, from the confideration of their being yours, would be highly acceptable to me, if it were fo appointed; but I hope, I shall never be so mad as to wish for them, for fear the consequence should ruin me. I know I am already happy without them.

30 Page 2 19 10 Mag Sandy Point, 23 June. My letters were fealed, and just going away, but I gladly break open yours, to tell you, that the boat which I fent to Antigua, has brought me (Oh how kind and careful is my dear) fix letters from you, besides several others from friends, which, though very acceptable, are of less importance to my peace. I am forry now, that

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will perhaps be uneasy for me, till you learn by this, that my wound is healed. I assure you, I dissembled what I could, and expressed much less concern than I selt, because I was writing to you. I have to praise God for the mercy of this day, and to consess the sin, and solly, of my distrust of his goodness. I have only had time, as yet, to read your letters twice. I see already, that I cannot fully answer them, but I am sure my sull heart means you thanks.

Sandy Point, 5 July.

I THINK this is the 12th letter I have sent you from hence, in the space of a month, and they have been all pretty full; and I believe, I shall hardly send you above one, or, at most, two more, before I sail myself, which I hope will be within ten days. In some of my sormer, I have commented upon three of yours, which I have received here.

The next, in order of time, is dated 3d January. I began the new year very feriously, and wish I could say, the whole hitherto, had been of a piece; but there has not a day passed, without my prayers, that every bleffing may rest upon you. I thank you for refolving not to like any one, but whom I first approve. I wish not to trouble you with many exceptions; but perhaps sometimes your judgment, and mine, may differ a little; for you have too much good nature and openness, to suspect fome of the poor, fluttering things, that intrude upon you. I aim at no one in particular; but you are fensible, that some, of whom you once thought better than they deserved, have before now explained their own characters, and justified my censure; and, fooner or later, all fuch will appear in their proper colours; for, where there are no good principles, professions and pretences must fall to the ground. You have given a good turn to Mrs. P-'s backwardness to believe we were married; but

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if we live to fee her together, the shall speak, if the pleases, for herself; and tell us whether your compliance, did not furprise her, more than my perseverance. But I care not which it was, fince I know that I am happy. Happy indeed, fince' you acknowledge that you think yourfelf fo; for I never was fo poor a wretch as to think of being happy alone. The only rifk I ran was this, left I should presume too much upon myself, in expecting to infpire you with a reciprocal regard. The event has indeed answered to my wishes; but when I think feriously of myself, I cannot but wonder at it, and at my own hardiness in the undertaking:

You say, my love continued, and yours increased. But has not mine increased likewise? I have no simile to illustrate the difference, between the regard I bear you now, and that which I had for you before marriage. I was not a hypocrite then. My affection was perhaps as strong, as in those circumstances, it could be. But I loved

loved you, as I may say, for your looks; my love had little more to feed upon. As yet, there were none of those endearments, and obligations, which now continually throng my remembrance. In short, I find by experience, that love, to be stable and permanent, must be mutual; and then, after years and years of possession, it will be still increasing; and every new endeavour to please, will produce a new pleasure. How different is this, from the vice, which the libertine would disguise under the name of love.

Sandy Point, July 11.

Ir I have a good passage, I may be in England, before this notice reaches you, for I hope to sail this evening, and the vessel by which I send it, is bound to London, and will stay here two or three days after me. But as she is a better sailer than mine, may probably arrive first. I allow You. I. K

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you to begin to think of my arrival, when you hear I am upon my way home, but beg you not to be impatient for news. Passages from the West Indies are very uncertain. It fometimes has happened. that a veffel, which has failed a month after another, has reached home as much before her. I have told you, that there is not a stronger or fafer ship than mine upon the fea; and the fame good Providence which preserved me last voyage, in a very old and crazy veffel, will be with me now; and I am going in the finest season of the year. In short, though I ought not confidently to prefume on any thing in this uncertain world, I derive, from the tenour of the dispensations I have met with, for several years past, a cheerful persuasion, that the God in whom I trust, will preserve me for farther mercies, and still make me an instance of his goodness to the most answorthy.

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At Sea, 23 July

I AM almost ashamed to say, that though I have been twelve days at fea, this is the first time of my writing to you. But I hope to be more frequent in future. I have indeed been very bufy, and am fo still. But I will not offer so poor an excuse; for if I can find time to eat or sleep, I can as well find an hour for your fervice. which is the fecond best business of my life. I have had much peace fince I received your letters, but I may now venture to own, that my disappointment till I had them, was the greatest trial I have known, fince I could call you mine. You know the strength of my passion, and you know well (observe my confidence) the painfulness of absence, and silence, from what we most value. But it is now happily over, and I hope what I then fuffered, will prove for the good of both, hereafter.

The weather is fine, and the wind fair.

I am drawing nearer to you every moment. Perhaps, as my prospect brightens, my genius may improve. My good intentions, at least, will not be wanting to entertain you. Thus much by way of presace. It grows late, and another agreeable employment awaits me, I mean, to recommend you to God in my prayers, that every evil may be kept from you while you sleep. I shall then lie down myself, with my usual wish, (which sometimes happens) that I may dream myself in your company.

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At Sea, 24 July.

You think, by my last letters, that I am grown more grave than formerly. I do not intend to be more dull, nor am I troubled with low spirits; but I own that gravity, so far as consistent with cheerfulness of heart, appears to me, desirable. And I hope I shall return to you graver (in my sense of the word) than I have been;

been; but that this change will not be to my difadvantage as a companion, and leaft of all to you. Cannot I remind you of many happy hours we have passed together, when noisy mirth, and the mistaken gaiety in which thousands are bewildered, would have feemed taftelefs, and impertinent?

Perhaps when you read this, I may be at your elbow to ask you, if not, I beg you to ask yourself-When sometimes you have been fitting alone in a melancholy muse, perhaps the more lonely for not having heard of me-when your imagination has painted the dangers to which I was exposed, and your memory has officiously furnished you, with instances of fome who have fuffered by fuch difafters;or when you have recollected the circumstances of our past endearments—and, to finish all, when you have recalled me to your thoughts, in the action of parting from you, without a word or figh, for fear of increasing your trouble-I fay, when-K 3 mixture

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a mixture of these, and similar ideas, have wrought you up to that pitch of regret, and concern, which must be fometimes paid for the privilege of loving-tell me, if then, the world, with all its gaieties and amusements, has not appeared a bubble, a shadow, a wilderness? Why then should we not always be too grave to be pleafed with them, fince we have repeated proofs, that none of the world's gewgaws can afford us relief, in our mournful hours. So far from helping us at fuch times, we prefer our own thoughts, (though painful enough) to every thing that offers to divert us; and carry it with caution to our dearest friends, lest they should steal our grief away; I have faid We and Us all along, having no doubt, but a description of my own feelings, will answer to yours likewise. Yet after all, we seem to be perfuaded, that a more happy couple than we are, cannot be found. If so, do we not allow and prove, that happiness is not to be expected in this life; at least, not in any, any, or all the things, that are of an earthly growth? Who has it, if we have it not? And what have we? Perhaps a precarious month in a year, which, confidered in itself, is to me valuable indeed. But it must be owned, that the more we are pleased, the short space we are together, the more we are at a loss, in the long interval of separation; during the greater part of which, we know no more of each other, than of the silent grave.

The insensible, selfish creatures, whom caprice or custom, yoke in a married state, without design or considence, are strangers to our satisfactions: this is true; but neither do they seel the drawback. To quit a person dearer than eyes, or life—to be at a painful uncertainty, for many weary months, for a welfare more precious to us than our own – and, from a sense of happiness, at home, to be raised to a pitch incapable of tasting the common entertainments of life, abroad—to be always fearing what may never happen, and regreting what may never happen, and regret-

ing what can never be recalled --- From these, and many more pains, which I feel, but cannot describe, their insensibility secures them. These are appropriate, prerogative troubles, which none but lovers, nay, none but happy lovers, are capable of fuffering. I make enough the work to sweet preise year in the midit of my grief, and

when quinting what I must valued. I though arried himpier than thousands can

Porting to to to Ar Sea, 25 July

A STRANGER might suppose, I was yesterday complaining of my lot, but you know me better. That I can love; that my regard was directed to you, and has met with a fuitable return from you, are my chief temporal bleffings, in which, notwithstanding all disadvantages, I still deem myfelf happy; that is, in a qualified fense; so far as this imperfect state will admit, and far beyond my deferts, or the common attainment of mankind. But for this, I am much beholden to my gravity, fuch as it is. For should I grant, L'ennidered: that

that a ferious temper is not quite necessary, to give us the full relish of our enjoyments when prefent, (which is more, however, than I mean to grant) yet furely it is needful to support us in the want of them.

Though, in the moment of taking my leave of you, I felt more than I can express; yet, in the midst of my grief, and when quitting what I mast valued, I thought myself happier than thousands canbe, in the possession of their wishes. I left you, and with the expectation of a long absence; but a sense of the divine Providence, and my trust in God, greatly obviated my cares and fears, and led my thoughts forwards to the hour, (I hope now nearly approaching) which will reftore me to you again. I was like a person, committing his dearest treasure, to his dearest friend; and then went down stairs. with a mixture of peace and grief, not easily described; not as violently torn away, but as willingly foregoing you for a while, that I might the better deserve you.

I considered, K 5

I confidered, that the Lord, who had joined us, could eafily have fo appointed our affairs, as to free us from the necessity of fuch long separations; and I thought it would have been fo, but that He, who knows all things, knows the indulgence would hurt us in some particulars, perhaps in many, which we are not aware of. I felt for the uneafiness, which your regard for me, might fometimes occasion; but I faw, that even this might lead your mind more closely, and frequently, to him for help, and if fo, be a benefit. I confess, the thought of death, on either fide, made me ferious. If I had apprehended, that was the last time I should hold you in my arms, how could I have left you at all? No; -then, methinks, wind and tide, bufiness and honour, would have pleaded in vain, and I must have been carried from you by force. But this, which was my only dread, hardly occurred to me at the time, and was foon removed, by an inward perfualion, that we should happily meet again.

again. And Oh! could you form an idea, of the evils I have fince been preferved through, and kept for the most part in peace, seldom knowing where the danger lay, till it was past, you would allow, that I am a living proof, of the truth of those promises, which I endeavour, by the grace of God, to make my stay, and my trust.

I hope I have made out the advantage of a religious frame of mind, in my present fituation. Let me now confider, whether it will not be equally necessary, and conducive to our happiness, upon a re-union. Will it not be an additional pleasure, to think that we do not meet again, as it were by chance, but by the care of a watchful Providence, in answer to prayer; as a token of his favour, and an earnest, to encourage our future dependance upon him? How could I, loving you as I do, be easy a moment, without this dependance, in fuch a changeable state, and not knowing what the next day, or hour, may bring K 6 forth ?

forth? Nor is religion a restraint, upon any real or rational pleasure. For, as the apostle emphatically expresses it, God gives us all things richly, to enjoy. Not grudgingly, but freely and richly; not to raise desires which may not be gratified; what he gives, is with the defign that it may be enjoyed. It is true, there is a modus, a moderation, enjoined; but this, likewife is for our benefit, that we may not fpoil the relish of our comforts, nor indifpose ourselves for the reception of his farther, and better gifts.

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At Sea, 26 July.

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SINCE, then, a ferious and dependant fpirit, secures to us the best enjoyment of our bleffings, and obviates, in a great measure, the inconveniences to which they are fubject; what remains, but that we should resolve, and endeavour, to the best of our power, to cultivate this temper, and

to live, fo as has appeared to u mosts reasonable, when we have been uneasy, and afflicted. The contrary behaviour carries in it fo much difingenuousness, that I am ashamed, when I reflect upon my past guilt and folly. For it is certain, that I have often been leaft observant and attentive, when a grateful mind would have been most fo. For these reasons, I hope, upon my return, to appear more grave than ever, to one part of our acquaintance; but then I shall be always cheerful, in the approbation of my conscience. 1 have chiefly written all this, upon my own account, that the perusal of it hereafter, may confirm and strengthen me, in my present views, and defires. the second from this and depend

At Sea, 31 July.

I AM persuaded, as I have often said, that if it was in all points best for us to be always together, we should never be part-

ant fines, include to as the fall emotiment of nor blefilings, and observed, in a great

ed. He who has already done fo much for us, could eafily add this to the rest of his mercies, and, perhaps, at a proper time, he will. If not, let us entreat him, to direct our thoughts and pursuits to a better state, where no feparation, anxiety, or grief, shall disturb us for ever. The trials of this life, are highly useful and necessary, to prevent our minds from fixing here; especially to us, who have so much to prize in each other. But let not passion mislead us to suppose, that we are not capable of a happiness, as far beyond our present experience or conception, as the heavens are higher than the earth. Our mutual affection, which now makes life chiefly valuable to us, will, I truft, subsist in a nobler manner, when the transient causes upon which it was at first founded, shall, perhaps, have no more place in our remembrance; at leaft, will not be confidered in the light we now esteem them, but will appear truly valuable, only fo far as they were, by the bleffing of God, subservient to a farther, and

and better end. And how will it then increase our joys, (if our joys will then be capable of increase) to think, that we have assisted each other in obtaining them!

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Malle sen han level de la At Sea, & August.

Supposing, that if you are in health to-day, you have been a partaker of the communion at church, I attended you with my prayers, about the time; that you might receive a bleffing, and have cause to look back upon the opportunity, with comfort. If it please God to continue our present favourable appearances, I hope to join with you, the next time, with a pleafure, which only they, who have been long feparated from public worship, and who have fo' many mercies to acknowledge, as I have, can conceive. It comforts me to think, that you are favoured with all the advantages, of which my way of life deprives me, for a whole year, or longer. And And I hope you fuitably improve suble rite of having our comforts blimate

My affection carries my wishes and defires for you, far beyond the narrow bounds, of the time we can expect to pass together here; and I shall be glad to find, that a preparation for an hereafter, has a place in your thoughts, much fuperior to any concern, or regard for me. For I am a poor weak creature, incapable, dearly as I love you, of shielding you from the smallest evil, or of doing you any fervice fd great, as by diffuading you, from placing too much dependance upon a worm, like myself. Think not that I undervalue your affection. I am fure I would not exchange it, for all the kingdoms upon earth. But there is a regard, which is only due to him, who first inspired us with love to each other. While our mutual affection is restrained, in a proper subordination to him, I hope we shall not be blameable for prefering it, as I do, to whatever else can be named. But if we exceed this boundary,

we not only fin, but expose ourselves to a double risk, of having our comforts blighted, either by death, or by heavy troubles. All that we posses, or value, is the immediate gift of God, who proposes the most ingenuous and grateful motives, to win us to his service. But if, by fondly reposing on creatures, we pervert his goodness, and set up a rest, independent of the Creator, what can be expected, but that he will either recal the blessings we so little deserve, or throw in bitter ingredients, to spoil our pleasures?

I tremble to think, how much I have exposed you, by my blindness and folly in this respect. When I was so long at St. Kitt's, without hearing from you, that I almost concluded you were dead, my conscience confirmed my sears; for I knew that I deserved to be punished, where my feelings were most tender and sensible. This conviction lay upon my mind, with a weight that no words can express. Ah! thought I, but for me, she might have been

been still living and happy. My weakness and ingratitude, have shortened her days! But God is merciful: after I had fuffered thus for about a fortnight, I received your letters. But had the event proved, according to my dread, and my defert, what would have become of me. - To furvive you upon any terms, would be a great trial; but it then feemed comparatively light, could it have been abstracted from the aggravation, of having finned you away. But-I cannot give you a just idea of the state of my mind, at that time. I thank God, it is happily over, and I have now a comfortable hope, that we shall meet again in peace. If we do, furely I shall not be such a wretch again.

At Sea, 16 August.

Now I may write leifurely, for the wind is contrary. Though I am earneftly desirous to see you, I would not be 10 B

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be impatient, nor wish, if it was in my power, to fix the time myself. I trust, it shall be in a happy hour, and I defire to leave the when, to God. Our times are in his hands. It will fignify little, a hundred years hence, whether I was five, or fix, or more weeks, on my passage homewards, from St. Kitt's, in the year 1753. And, indeed, it will fignify but little, when I have been half an hour with you. I shall then soon forget the inconvenience of delay. If I feel any concern, it is on your account; for my love would not willingly have you kept in an hour's suspense for me. But my judgment speaks more reasonably, and tells me, that, as disappointments and hindrances, have often proved of real fervice to myfelf; fo, perhaps, they may be to you likewife. And the dependant frame of spirit, in which I am now happy, would be worth your purchase, if you have not yet attained it, (but I hope you rather exceed me) at the price of not feeing me this twelvemonth. *175

be impatient, now willy, if its was in my

MARIL

At Sea, 18 August.

I am brought in safety, to the close of another week. The evening of a Saturday, I usually allot to the exercise of prayer, and praise. It is not foreign to this design, to employ half an hour in writing to you, to invite you to join with me, in praising our gracious Preserver, as we are jointly interested in each other's concernments.

The wind has been easterly a few days, but it now seems to be coming about fair again. For my own part, I consider the winds, from every quarter, to be fair; though, in compliance with our customary forms of speaking, I call those so, which allow me to fail to my intended port, in a straight line. When it changes, I am obliged to change my course, and to go something about. But they all contribute to answer my best wish, at the proper time. And probably a contrary wind, is no less conducive to this end, than a more direct one.

For we know not, when we go too fast, or too slow. A ship has often been hurried into danger and distress, by a quick passage.

I shall be with you in my thoughts tomorrow, in the church, in your retirements, and at your meals. I rise early,
to pray for your happiness, before
you awake; and sit up past your hour,
that I may beg a blessing upon your rest,
before I go to rest myself. Some persons
would smile at all this. Let them smile—
so that I may give the most sincere, and
ferious proof of my affection, by praying,
at all hours, and in all circumstances, for
your peace and welfare.

At Sea, 20 August.

We have again a fair wind, and very pleasant weather. I have often heard your sex compared to the ocean. I hope the resemblance does not generally hold, (I am

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(I am happy to be certain, that in one infrance it does not) for there cannot be a more apt emblem of inconstancy. This fpot of water, which I am now paffing over, which, at present, is as smooth as a meadow, spread round far as the eye can reach, like a great mirror, and reflects the beams of the moon unruffled, has, perhaps, been the grave of many; at leaft, their terror, and will often be fo. It may be, that the next who follow me, will find a very different scene. For, let the wind blow with violence, from any quarter, for the space of four hours, and all will be in confusion; the mirror broken, the level destroyed, and nothing to be seen, but, alternately, yawning gulphs, and moving mountains, every one feeming to rife higher than the rest, and the smallest, sufficient to destroy the stoutest ship, and to confound the strongest human considence, in a moment; if not continually restrained, by that fovereign power, which rules the waves with a nod, and limits them

to their bounds, beyond which, in their highest rage and confusion, they cannot rife the tenth part of an inch. How they feel, at fuch times, who have no reliance. but on their own skill and precaution, I cannot fav ; but was it fo with me. I should often prove, a very coward; and, indeed, always; for when danger was not apparent, I should dread it, as being imminent. When I compare the various contingencies, to which a ship is liable, with the best preventions, or remedies, that art can furnish against them, they feem so disproportionate, that, were it not for a superintending Providence, I should think it a wonder indeed, if any one veffel, made a voyage in fafety. But, as in this view, I should be always afraid, so now, since I am certain, that I am under the care of God, in all places, I do not, even in turbulent weather, fuffer more anxiety, than is needful to engage my attention to the proper use of means. This is my part, and if means are succeeded, it is by the bleffing of God, without

without which, my diligence would be unavailing. The watchman waketh but in vain, except the Lord keep the city; but it does not follow, that because the Lord keeps the city, the watchman may go to sleep, but rather the contrary.

an adirde abbomb

At Sen, 29 August.

I TOLD you yesterday, that I might probably dine to day at Liverpool; but I must wait longer. Last night brought us, with fair wind and fair weather, within sour hours sail of our port. We stopped to wait for day-light, and a pilot. The day came at its appointed time, but, instead of a pilot, brought a strong gale of wind, with thick weather; so that I was glad to turn about, and away to sea again; and may be thankful, if I can keep clear of the sands and dangers, which lie before the entrance of the river, which I trust I shall; for I believe the providence of God, has not brought

brought me fafely across two oceans, to leave me to my own poor shifts at last. It really blew very hard, and looked very difmally at four this morning: but the weather is now more moderate, though still dark and rainy. I was fomething anxious in the night, but am, at present, tolerably eafy. God is my defence; if he is on my fide, I must be preserved: the winds and the waves obey him!

I can now give you a new proof, that my dependance upon God, is not in vain. When I wrote the above, I was in a very indifferent fituation. A hard gale of wind, thick weather, and very little fea room. Had things continued fo another day, I might have fuffered shipwreck, within a few miles of my port. But I had scarcely laid the paper by, when the weather changed to quite fine, and the wind came about fair. Before noon, I got a pilot on board, and I may now hope to be at Liverpool, this very night! Surely no

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one experiences the goodness, and care of divine Providence, more continually than I do! Surely the Lord hears and anfwers my poor prayers!

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THIRD VOYAGE TO AFRICA.

At Sea, 26 October.

MY DEAREST, at a ment to shirt bus

I now begin to prepare materials for new packets. The first thing in course, is to tell you, that, by the bleffing of the Lord, all is well with me. We had an extraordinary good outlet to fea, and loft fight of the last land, the third day after parting with you. We are all in good health and spirits. My time passes, perhaps, too pleafantly, confidering that possibly you may be mourning, at the very instant, when I am most cheerful. But I excuse myself to myself, by pleading, that it was your defire, I should be as cheerful as I can. At all times, I have room in my thoughts for you; and the most pleasant of all my hours, are those which are devoted

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to praying for you. My mind attends you this week, from stage to stage, on your long journey home. The wife, tafteless many, would fmile at this attention, and call me a triffer. So let them. If it gains a smile of acceptance from you, I will account it a matter of importance; and smile at them, in my turn, though I rather ought to pity them.

Study of Strains trick

by the plating of the Locals

11 - 154 HAD A. Dacia V At Sea, 2 November.

10 1 WE faw, and passed, the island Madeira, this morning, (which is diftant from Liverpool about 1500 miles) though this is but the thirteenth day fince we left the tock. As we are now entering that part of the ocean, where the wind blows from the eastern quarter, the year round, I have the prospect of a quick passage. Should it prove so, it will be agreeable, especially as I have not been left to wish, for any thing particular, being sensible, that I know not how to choose, the best means, and

and times, for accomplishing my own defires, if the choice was given to me. Difpatch will be welcome, as affording me the prospect, of a more speedy return to you. But should I meet with delay, I hope to acquiesce, and to believe that it will keep me back, from something that would be worse. Was I to judge otherwise, I should sin against the experience of many years, in which I have always had my wishes gratisted, so far as was consistent with my safety; and have met with no disappointment, or trouble, but what I have afterwards perceived, was intended, or at least overruled, for my benefit.

In two points we are, and have been, favoured above thousands. First, in a tender and reciprocal regard, which renders it impossible for either of us, to be pleased or pained, alone; and, secondly, that this sympathy has been chiefly, I could almost say, wholly employed, in a participation of pleasures, with very little interruption (the pain of absence excepted) on L 3 either

either side. I know not which of these bleffings is most valuable, but certainly, when combined, (as with us) they constitute the nearest approach to happiness, in a temporal view, that this imperfect flate will admit. There are many, who, in point of outward advantages, may feem equal, or superior to us, but then their contracted, selfish spirits, cannot relish, or improve them: Again, there are others, of generous, and feeling difpolitions, who, borne down by the pressure of accumulated afflictions, derive no advantage from their fensibility, unless it be a privilege, to have a more exquisite perception of mifery. There are those who could bear adverfity in their own persons, with tolerable composure, but feel a tenfold diftress, by feeing others involved with them, whose peace is dearer to them than their own. Help me to be thankful! I have no rent-rolls, or stock-fecurities, to rely upon. But I have an inventory of another kind, a fingle article of which, is preferable.

preserable, in my eyes, to all the wealth of the Indies: health, content, liberty, love, the recollection of the past, and therein, a lively image of what I may yet hope for; when it shall please God, in his good time, to restore me home, to receive from you, in one hour, an ample recompense, for the toils of a whole voyage.

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At Sea, 23 November.

T AIM, as well as I can, to mingle the agreeable and useful, in the course of my letters; and to offer what may entertain you, and, at the same time, improve us both. Our mutual happy affection, supplies me with my largest fund, for the first purpose; and I am glad, when I can properly introduce such resections, as may affist us in making our present satisfactions, subservient to a still higher end: You will not be displeased with me for saying, that though you are dearer to me, than the aggregate

of all other earthly comforts, I wish to limit my passion, within those bounds which God has appointed. Our love to each other, ought to lead us to love him fupremely, who is the author and fource of all the good we possess, or hope for. It is to him, we owe that happiness in the marriage state, which so many seek in vain; fome of whom, fet out with fuch hopes and prospects, that their disappointments can be deduced from no other cause, than their having placed that high regard on a creature, which is only due to the Creator. He therefore withholds his bleffing, (without which no union can subsist) and their expectations, of course, end in satiety and indifference.

Perfect happiness cannot be attained in this life; but to come as near it as possible, well deserves our close application. As persons differ much in their views and inclinations, this attempt has been purfued, by a great variety of mediums. The heathen philosophers were divided by a diversity

diversity of opinions, but they all agreed in an endeavour to teach mankind, how to make the most, of the good which life affords; and to bear its evils, with the best grace possible. Some proposed one fort of rules; others offered new ones, and perhaps quite opposite to the former; but experience confuted them all. Being ignorant of the original nature, the true end, and the future destination, of man, they failed in the cure of the evils, under which he laboured, because they knew not the fource from which they fprung. Some attempted to eradicate the passions, and placed happiness in a calmness, or rather, an infensibility, of foul; not reflecting, that the Creator does nothing in vain, and that we have not a fingle, natural inclination in our frame, but what he defigned fhould, under a proper referiction, be gratified. But while they endeavoured to guard against care, and to restrain irregularity, their schemes tended to destroy, fome of our most distinguishing properties,

and to exclude all tenderness, and generosity of sentiment. Others, to avoid this abfurdity, fell into a greater, if possible. By supposing, the greatest happinels to confift, in the most constant enjoyment of fenfual pleasure, they opened a wide door to folly and enormity; and left each person to pursue his own propensity, under the notion of pleasure, without having recourse to any standard, by which to regulate their conduct. These were the two very different plans of those, who are generally deemed, the wifest men among the ancients, the Stoics, and the Epicureans. The one pretended, that the world afforded nothing worthy of their notice; The other found, there was nothing in the world, deferving of the value they fet upon it.

We are relieved from this uncertainty, by the gospel, which has brought life and immortality, true happiness, and the means of attaining it, to light. And when we count over, the various bleffings we enjoy,

we should always acknowledge, in the first place, this pledge, and ground-work, of every other mercy, that we were born in an age, and a country, affording us plain, and fure instruction, concerning our real. interest, and bounden duty, and how inseparably they are joined together. The scripture teaches us how to enjoy profperity, in its full relish, by considering every instance of it, as a gift and token of the divine goodness, always attentive to bless us; and, likewise, abates the pressure of adversity, by shewing us, how much our worst sufferings, fall short of our demerits: how much more our Lord and Saviour endured, for our fakes; and by the affurance it gives, that if we love God, all things, even those which at present are most disagreeable, shall work together for our final good. Now, whatever troubles we meet with, we can look beyond them. all, to an everlasting rest. The hour of death, so much dreaded by others, will. put the true Christian, in possession of eter-

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nal life. These things, reason, unaffisted by revelation, could never have discovered.

The Christian Religion is a confistent fystem, including the truth, and morality of every fect of philosophy, and avoiding the errors of each. We now fee the use and excellence of the passions, when duly regulated; though they render us unhappy, when misapplied, because then they fall short of their proper end; for God, who (as the scripture says) made us for himself, has formed us, with a vaftness of capacity, which, he only, can fatisfy. And from hence proceeds that restlessness, and disappointment, that love of change, which is the portion of those, who place their highest defires, and strongest hopes, on any thing beneath the supreme good. We can now fay, that pleasure is our chief happiness, by using the word, with a propriety unknown to the Epicureans. We feek for pleasure, but it must be of the noblest kind, and most lasting duration. Upon this maxim, we cheerfully renounce every present present pleasure, which, in its consequence, would occasion a pain, greater, or more lasting, than the pleasure proposed; and we can welcome troubles, when we clearly perceive, they are but light and momentary, if compared with the far more exceeding, and eternal weight of glory, to which they lead. This is an abstract of my principles, and, I believe, of yours likewise. These shall support us, when we shall be constrained to leave each other; and these, I trust, shall join us again, in a better world, to part no more for ever.

Plantanes, 10 December.

THE three sheets enclosed, will bring my history down to the end of November. I arrived, in safety, at Shebar, the second instant; found my friend Harry*

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^{*} Henry Tucher, a Mulatto, at Shebar, was the man, with whom I had the largest connection in business, and by whom I was never deceived.

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well, and very glad to see me. Your picture, if it could speak, might tell you, how well pleased his first lady was with your present; for she dressed herself in it before you, and seemed to think, that in her new attire, she might stand in competition with you. I believe you will smile at her vanity, and think I pay you no great compliment, in preserving your picture, to her reality. But had the finest woman in England stood by, she would, in my eye, have fallen almost equally short, upon the comparison.

I often look back, with a mixture of thankfulness and regret, upon the time we lately passed together, at Liverpool, which I consider as the happiest part of my life. I never before had so much of your company, in an equal space, and with so little interruption. Seven such weeks, are preferable to seven years of common time. After so many sheets and quires, as I have written to you, I cannot always produce what is new. But the thoughts with which

your

your love inspires me, are too interesting; to be irksome, though often repeated.

Accept my thanks for your valuable, or invaluable letter, of the 28th October. which I have just received. I thank you, likewife, for your punctual observance of our stated hour of retirement, which has been feldom omitted on my part; though, fometimes, hurry of business, or want of opportunity, bave prevented me. But if I flip the appointed minute, no business, or company, can prevent me from putting up, at least, frequent heart-felt ejaculations on your behalf. I congratulate Mr. B. upon the agreeable company he had to London. I think the journey was, at least, as favourable to him, as to you. I am fure, I would rather have had his feat in the post-chaise, than his office, however lucrative or honourable, unless you were annexed to it. But I remember, as Friar Bacon's head faid, Time was. I have been happy, and hope to be so again.

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Shebar, 10 January.

I often lose myself insensibly, in the recollection of our past times; and purchase the recal of the most valued pleasures, at the expence of only a transient figh. I think of our evening walks and retirements, when the fetting fun, the trees, the birds, and prospects, have contributed to enrich the scene; though your company was, to me, that which completed, and crowned the whole. I reflect with pleafure, on fome feafons, when our thoughts have risen faster, than words could give them utterance, and we have furprifed the tears filently stealing down our cheeks. What would the gay, and fashionable world fay, to fuch a representation? They live in too much hurry, and have too little reflection, to understand this elegance of foul, which, under the guise of grief, affords

fords the fincerest pleasure. My own experience, would almost lead me to maintain, what you, perhaps, will think a paradox-That they who best love, are best qualified to support the pains, and anxieties of ab-Such trains of thought as I have mentioned, yield me more fatisfaction, than all the gewgaws of the great or wealthy could do. But it will not therefore follow, that people, who are indifferent when together, are better pleased when asunder. In the former case, they are soon weary of each other; in the latter, they are as foon weary of themselves. However, to me, the past and the future, afford abundant fubject for agreeable musing; and even the present, though not very agreeable in itself, becomes in some measure so, when I consider, that I am here for your sake. And I am glad of the opportunity of manifesting, that neither difficulties, nor dangers, nor distance, nor time, can abate the fense of what I owe you. However the case may be now, I can remember the time, when.

when you could have done very well without me. The first obligation, which was the ground of every other, was entirely on your fide; and I still think myself far short of repaying it. Though, if I could cancel that, you have taken care to fuperadd new ones, every fucceeding day fince.

Buche will not therefore

Rio Junk, 17 January

In the midst of a thousand hurries, and avocations, I must steal a few minutes, to converse with you. I have been almost wearied to-day with noise, heat, smoke, and business; but when I think of you, the inconvenience is gone. Which of your learned philosophers can define, this wonderful, transforming thing, called Love, that can infuse a degree of pleasure, into trouble and disquiet?

The ship that is to take my packet, is upon the point of failing. I must wind up all, with fervent prayers, that it may please

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please the Lord, the giver of all good, to preserve us in peace and dependance, during the appointed term of our separation; and, in his good hour, to give us a happy meeting; and that we may learn to wait for that time with patience, with more than patience, with thankfulness, that our profpects are only delayed, or prorogued, and not wholly cut off, as has been the case with many, fince we first joined hands. Above all, I pray, that in every scene of life, we may prepare for what we know must, sooner or later, take place. That we may believe, and act, upon the principles of the gospel, to the glory of our Maker and Redeemer here, and then we shall be happy for ever, hereafter, beyond the reach of forrow or pain, and shall never more know, what it is to part.

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Rio Seflos, 21 January.

LORD Orrery remarks, upon a letter of Pliny, (whom, I think, I formerly mentioned) to his wife's aunt, That the examples of delicate conjugal love, have been few. He fays, " Men cannot, or will not, " fee the excellencies of their wives. From "the day of marriage, the woman lays " afide her referve, and the man his civi-" lity. She grows forward, and overbear-" ing; he becomes four and shappish. Or, " if they appear fond, (as, from the novel-"ty of the state, it sometimes happens) " the groffness of the passion is too nau-" feous to be named." Whenever I meet with an observation of this kind, it is an unspeakable pleasure to me, to reflect, that I can put in an exception to it, in both your name, and my own. Were I even affured, that the whole time, fince Pliny and Calphurnia lived, (which is more than fixteen hundred years) afforded only forty fuch happy couples, I should not scruple to include you, and myself, in the number. And in this consciousness, I find more pleasure, than the greatest affluence of wealth could give me. I have enough. I have all, in that mutual affection, with which it has pleased God to bless us, and, without which, the treasures of both the Indies, would, to me, be useless and tafteless. I think, I have now some right to fpeak thus; for the experience of nearly four years, has convinced me, that either the novelty formuch talked of, is not neceffary to my fatisfaction; or elfe, which amounts to the fame thing, that I find some new cause of endearment in you, every day. In said ha A 130 said bits the

Rio Seflos, 25 Januarg.

I EXPECTED, before I left England, that the present voyage would not prove successful, in point of profit; and I was not mistaken. I shall hardly reach the half

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We want for no hibg of prefetty and for the five five fixtures we may falsily italy on the sound

half of my last year's purchase. I hope, the vessel I have bought, to trade after I am gone, may secure the owners interest; but my own part of the affair, will probably be moderate enough.

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If a figh should escape you on this account, I beg you to recollect yourfelf, and not indulge a fecond. Remember, that this failure in dirty money matters, is the only abatement we have hitherto met with; and that, in other respects, we have as much the advantage, of those who are envied by the world, as we fall short of them in riches. We have bleffings, which riches can not purchase, nor compensate for the want of. And I fee much cause for thankfulness, that things are no worse. We want for nothing at present; and for the future, we may fafely rely on the good Providence, that has done fo much for us already. Befides, what I may get by an indifferent voyage, would, by many, be thought a great fum. We are both fenfible, that we are too short-sighted, to choose well

well for ourselves, if the choice were allowed us; and, therefore, I hope we shall agree, to refign our concerns to the dispofal of a better wisdom than our own.

When I look back, and reflect upon the difficulties, from which I have been relieved; and the advantages I have obtained, beyond my former hopes, and probabilities, it would be very difingenuous in me, to diftress myself about small matters. Nor need I be over-anxious upon your account, for God can as eafily provide for us, now we are joined in one interest, as if we had continued separate. If we make our chief application, for what chiefly deferves it, we are affured, that all inferior good things, in fuch a measure, and manner, as is most expedient for us, will furely be added to us. Perhaps we may not be rich—no matter. We are rich in Love. We are rich indeed, if the promises, and providence of God, are our inheritance. And, at present, we have every convenience; and I can think of no one thing, really

really desirable, the greatest sum of money could procure us, which we have not already, unless it were to free us from the necessity, of these frequent and long separations.

This thought, indeed, were I to yield to my first emotions, would make me more fond of gold, than a miser; though, in every other view, I can despise it. But when I am cool, as my conscience tells me, that I am unworthy of fo great a bleffing; fo my experience persuades me, that probably I cannot, as yet, be fafely trusted with it. Perhaps the event might prove worfe, than any thing which has hitherto befallen us. I am willing, indeed, to hope it would be otherwife, but my heart is deceitful, and has, more than once, deceived me, in this very point. I might grow fecure, and gradually neglect, the due improvement of fuch an addition to my talents. Nay, fuch is the unhappy depravity of human nature, that I cannot be sure; I might not, in time, be permitted, for my punishment, to forget what I owe to you. It is true, that at this moment of writing, it seems quite as easy for me, to forget to speak, or to breathe; but there is an unhappy gradation, often observable in the course of life, by which, people, from insensible beginnings, are carried on to things, which, once, they could not have thought of without horror. The first deviations from the paths of duty, and peace, are scarcely discernible, but they become wider and wider.

I must recal, or soften, this last supposition; for I cannot bear even to suppose it. Can I possibly forget you? I hope not. Surely it would be better for me, to be condemned to the mines for life, than to be deprived of that grateful confidence, with which my heart at this instant overflows, that I am yours, and that you are mine. This, I trust, will be among the last reflections, I shall be capable of making in this world. But that it may be fo, I wish to acquiesce, in whatever methods it shall please God to appoint, for the continuance of my affection. Perhaps he sees, that these VOL. I. M intervals

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intervals of absence, are the best means for preserving me, from an evil, which I dread more than a dungeon, or a galley. If it were otherwise, or whenever I attain strength sufficient to bear the indulgence, without abusing it, he can easily put it in our power to live together here, till we are meet to be removed to a happy hereaster. That great word Eternity, rightly understood, is a cure for every evil, and casts a shade upon the brightest prospects, that all on this side the grave can furnish. To us, I hope, it will be an eternity of happiness.

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A MONG the many congratulations, you will probably receive to-day, I believe you will think none more fincere, or acceptable, than mine; though, perhaps, I am in nothing more fingular, or unfashionable, than in my manner of expressing them. The return of your birth-day, requires from me, an acknowledgment of the

the same kind, as the return of my own.

I commemorate both in the same manner.

I was up long before the sun, this morning, to invoke a blessing upon you, and to pray, that this may prove a happy birthday to you, in my sense of the word. I am writing in a tornado. The elements seem all at war over my head, but I thank God I have peace within; and the storm does not interrupt my thoughts of you.

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The day reminds me of that (prophetical, shall I call it) agreement between your mother and mine, when we were in leading strings; that, if we lived to grow up, we should be man and wife. There seems, indeed, nothing extraordinary in such a discourse taking place, be ween intimate friends. But as, afterwards, the intercourse between our families, was totally broken off, for many years, and renewed by me, in the most contingent, and, as the phrase is, accidental manner, when I did not even rightly know your name; add to this, the unusual impression, the first sight of you, made upon my mind, when we were both

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fo young, that I knew not what, or why, I loved; and further, the many difficulties which attended my pursuit, which was begun, and carried on for years, against the advice, and confent, of all your friends, and of all mine, and, what seemed the greatest bar of all, against your own inclination likewife :- I fay, taking all thefe circumstances together, I cannot but think it remarkable, that we were fo particularly laid out for each other, when we were infants. However this may be, I have abundant reason to praise the Lord, that before I had been four years in the world, he should provide for me, in you, the greatest bleffing of my life; with which, he purposed to enhance, and crown all his other mercies to me; and that you might be, in time, as a guardian angel, to preserve me from ruin. I defire to praise him, for all the goodness that has followed you from the hour I am commemorating, to this day, for the gracious protection which preferved you for me, through your early taring any and milital it airs you congresses

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years; for your health, and fatisfaction, fince you have been mine; and for enabling me, thus far, to answer the trust you have reposed in me. And, I humbly pray, that our affections, and engagements, may be preserved inviolable between ourselves, and in a proper subordination to what we owe to him, the great Lord of all.

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less our for each ether, when we were in

Settera Crue, 6 February.

I have calculated, that, if all the letters I have fent you, fince our first parting, in May, 50, were transcribed in order, they would fill one hundred and twenty such sheets as this, on all sides. An eye, less favourable than yours, might find very many faults, in so large a collection; but if they have the merit of pleasing you, it pleases me more to have written them, than if I had published so many volumes, to be applauded by the world. I hope I need not be ashamed of them, if

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they were to fall into other hands. I hope I have, in general, expressed my regard, in terms, which reason and religion will war-I confider our union, as a peculiar effect, and gift, of an indulgent Providence; and, therefore, as a talent to be improved to higher ends, to the promoting his will and fervice, upon earth, and to the affifting each other, to prepare for an eternal state, to which, a few years, at the farthest, will introduce us. Were these points wholly neglected, however great our fatisfaction might be, for the present, it would be better, never to have feen each other; fince the time must foon come, when, of all the endearments of our connexion, nothing will remain, but the consciousness, how greatly we were favoured, and how we improved the favours we posfessed. We shall hereafter have reason to be thankful, even for these frequent separations, if they should conduce to fix these views, more effectually in our minds. With fuch thoughts, I endeavour to oppose my impatience pe in

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impatience to see you. My occasional anxieties, and my indifference to every thing around me, when you are not with me, I compare to the sense of seeling, which often costs a person pain; but if he were destitute of it, he would be incapable of pleasure, and little better than dead. If my heart were not susceptive of love and tenderness, I might escape many a twinge; but I have not suffered enough, to make me envy those, whose whose thought and solicitude, terminate on their own dear selves.

other, fince the time north from come,

when, of all the medearments of our con-

Settera Crue, 12 February.

What I daily acknowledge, as the greatest blessing of my life, the return of this day, reminds me to notice, more particularly. It is the anniversary of our marriage: a point I had so much at heart; in which I had long so little probability of succeeding; was so very unworthy of succeeding.

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cess;

cess; and which has so happily answered, I may indeed say, exceeded, my expectations;—When I consider all these items together, I am at a loss for words, to express my thankfulness to God. For sour whole years, I have possessed the height of my wishes. I do not except, even these necessary intervals of absence, because I have been enabled to support them, as well as I myself can desire; and because the consciousness of your affection, of which, neither absence, nor distance, can deprive me, affords me a continual feast.

I arose before the sun, to pray, and give thanks for you, and to beg that you may always find, as much satisfaction, as you have raised me to; and that we may both have grace to act, answerably to the advantages we have above thousands. If you look round, upon those of your acquaintance, who have entered the marriage state, about the time we did, I believe you will find but sew, who do not, in some degree, betray a sense of disappointment; or, who are

are so entirely satisfied with each other, as, I trust, we are. I do not mean to form a comparison with any one, in my own fa-Sincerity, and tenderness, are the chief of my inventory; but if I ever grow richer in accomplishments, both the praise, and the profit, ought to be yours; and who can tell, how far a defire to appear deserving of you, may, at length, carry me?

The occasion, might now lead me to a more ferious strain, and to consider, how we may make these blossoms of temporal good, bear fruit for eternity; but for this, I shall at present refer you, to what I wrote on your birth-day. Let us remember, that in all fituations, whether pleafed, or pained, we are equally advancing towards an unchangeable eternity. It is a part of human happiness, if rightly understood, to know, that the very best of it, must ere long be parted with, for fomething unfpeakably better. on the one and and and

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I STILL continue in health, and all is well, excepting one late circumstance, which has given me, as you will believe, much concern; but I have how got over it. Not to keep you in fuspense, longer than just to prevent surprise, I must inform you, that all my schemes, in favour of Capt. I , are at an end. I told you, in a former letter, that I had bought a veffel upon the coast, and had given him the command of her. He went from me in good spirits, and with high hopes, but was feized with a fever, before he had left me three weeks, which proved fatal to him in about eight days. I have been much affected by this fudden stroke. I have known him long, and believe he had a true regard for me: and it was by my inducement, that he came hither. There are other reasons for my concern, which I need not mention to the anotherior ...

you. But the will of God has taken place, and it is my part to fubmit.

May we both profit from this recent, and awful instance, of the vanity and uncertainty of human life, and of all relating, to it. A healthy constitution, and sprightly temper, afford no fecurity from death. How many fuch, have I feen cut off upon this coast! And yet I, though supposed by many people, to be in a consumption, and not likely to hold out for one voyage, am preserved from year to year! Let us feel the expediency of preparing for a change, which, fooner or later, we must experience. The death of every friend, is a warning to the furvivors. And yours and mine will, perhaps, by some of our acquaintance, who knew how much we loved; and how happy we were in each other, be alledged, as a new proof, that even those temporal fatisfactions, which will best abide the test of reflection, are no less frail, and transient, than any other.

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noise, that I hardly know what I write. I only read, or think, as it were, by starts.

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adison beinud eved ben de At Sea, 8 April.

Ir is a whole fortnight fince I wrote to you, and feems to me much longer. I know you will charge my filence, to the hurry of business, and not to neglect. But I can now make you amends, by informing you, that I am, once more, clear of the coast of Guinea. I sailed from Shebar, yesterday morning. I have left my chief mate, Mr. W-, in possession of the Race-Horse, (the vessel which I purchased for Capt. L.) with about a thousand pounds worth of my cargo, which I could not difpose of, in the limited term of my stay on the coast; which I hope will fave the voyage to the owners. As to my own profit, though it may not be fo great, as might have been expected, I hope it will be fufficient. A fafe return to you, will make up all deficiencies. an Panonquivi on all'a

This has been a fatal feason, to many persons upon the coast. I think I never before heard, of so many dead, lost, or destroyed, in one year. But I have been kept in persect health, and have buried neither White, nor Black. Let us praise God, for his singular goodness to us, and take encouragement to hope and pray, that he will crown this voyage also, with a comfortable meeting. Amen.

St. N. Sarviga Assert Object Propagation

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At Sea, as April.

A rew days ago, I informed you, that I had left Africa, in good health and spirits. It has now pleased God, to give me in my own person, an experience of that uncertainty of all human affairs, which I have so often remarked, in the concerns of others.

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I have been ill three days, of a fever, which, though it is, at present, attended with no symptoms, particularly dangerous,

it behaves me to consider, may terminate in death. I have endeavoured to compose myfelf to the fummons, if it should so prove. And I hope I may fay, I am, in fome measure, ready to live or to die, as may be appointed; and that I defire not to choose for myself, in this case, more than in any other. One specious excuse, with which I have often covered my defire of life, was, that I might have opportunity of doing fornething for the glory of God, and the good of my fellow-creatures; that I might not go quite useless out of the world. But, alas I I have fo little improved the talents, and occasions, which have been already afforded me, that I am ashamed to offer this plea any more. My only remaining concern, is upon your account; and, even in that, I am in a measure relieved, from the following confiderations.

My first, and principal confolation, is in the hope, that we are both under the influence of religious principles, and that you, as well as mylelf, are persuaded, that no trouble, or change, can befall us by chance. Whenever a separation shall take place, as, if not now, it fooner or later must; it will be, by the express act and will, of the same wise and good Providence, which brought us together at first; has given us fo much, in each other, already, and has continually shielded us, as yet, from the various harms, which have been fatal to many of our acquaintance. Farther, I consider, that The time is short. If I go now, in a few years, perhaps much fooner, you will follow me, I hope, in the fame path, depending wholly on the divine mercy, through faith in the blood, and mediation, of Jesus Christ our Redeemer, according to the plain, literal terms, of the gospel. It is in this faith I am now happy. This bears me, in a measure, above my fears and fins, above my fickness, and above the many agreeable views, I had formed in my mind, upon a happy return to you. May this be your support, your guide, and shield, and I can alk no more for for you. Then you will, at last, attain complete and unsading happiness; and we shall meet again, and, perhaps, to join in regolecting the scenes, we have been engaged in together, while upon earth. Then, probably, we shall clearly see, what I now believe; and from which I derive, another reason for acquiescence; that, as the goodness of God first joined us, so, it was his mercy that parted us again. Mercy to each, to both of us.

We have, perhaps, been sometimes, too happy in each other; to have been always, or longer so, might have betrayed us into a dangerous security. We might have forgotten our present duty, and our future destination. It has been too much the case already: I have greatly failed myself, and I have been but a poor example for you. Should it, therefore, please God to make my death, the happy occasion of fixing your dependance, hope, and desire, upon him alone, surely I can say, Thy will be done. My heart bleeds, when I represent to myself, the

the grief, with which fuch an event would overwhelm you. But I know, that he can moderate and fanctify it, and give you cause, hereafter, to say, It was good for you to have been so afflicted; and, ere long, the time will come, when all tears shall be wiped, both from your eyes and mine.

meter that parted us again. Mercy

each, to both of us

At Sea, 30 April.

another reprieve. The fever has left me, and I feel my strength returning. You will congratulate me on my recovery. I thank you. But let us not be too secure. A relapse may soon happen; or twenty unforeseen events, may, without sickness, prove equally decisive. I hope I am, in some measure, thankful for the present, and not anxious about the future; for the Lord will appoint, what is best for us. My head was much consused, when I wrote

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wrote last; but I shall let it stand, as a specimen of my thoughts, in the hour of trial. I endeavoured, from the first, to compose my mind for departure hence, if fuch should be the will of God. And my belief of the Gospel, (which I once despised) made me tolerably easy, and refigned. When this grand point, was, according to my poor attainment, fettled, you were the chief, the fole object of my remaining folicitude; and I was defirous of leaving a few lines, while the fever did not render me quite incapable of writing, to certify you, in what manner I was enabled to meet my fummons; and to leave you my farewel advice, my bleffing, and my thanks. But before I could finish what I intended, the occasion was mercifully removed.

I hope the remembrance of this vifitation, will be a long, and constant benefit to me; and will give me, a better fense of the value of health, which I had been favoured with fo long, that it feemed almost thing of course. I bles God, for reftor-

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ing it to me again. If it be his will, I shall be glad to live a little longer, upon many accounts; and, among the chief, for your sake. And Oh! may it please him, to spare you for me, likewise, and to grant that we may again meet in peace! My eyes will not yet allow me to write much.

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an animamer garde Solde Stell Life france :

I send this, by a veffel, which will probably arrive in England, before you can have any news of me, from St. Christopher's, to inform you, that the Lord has brought us fafely, within about a week's fail of that island. I have before mentioned the death of Capt. L—, which was, indeed, a trial; but I soon acquiesced, as I ought always, in the will of God. When I consider, It is the Lord, should not I add, Let him do as seemeth him good?

There is, indeed, one trial, to which I always stand exposed; should this come,

my heart and conscience give me cause to fear, that, not only moral arguments, but the poor attainments I have made in religion, would fail, unless I was immediately strengthened from above. And I humbly trust I shall be, if I am ever called to a scene, which, at present, overpowers my spirits, when I but transiently think of it. Yes! God could enable me, to resign you also! He has promised strength according to our day; and he is compassionate, and faithful.

Since I left Africa, I have been ill of a fever. It was rather violent, but unattended with pains, delirium, or any threatening fymptom, and lasted but eight or ten days. Though it was not of the most dangerous species, I thought it right, to consider it, as a warning to prepare for eternity: and I praise God, the principles, upon which I aim to rest my hope, when in health, did not fail me in sickness. In surrendering myself entirely, to the mercy, and care, of my Lord and Saviour, my hopes

hopes fo much exceeded my fears, that, had it been his will, I feemed contented to give up, even all those prospects, which your love, and a happy return to you, afforded me; (for, at that time, no other temporal prospects, had the least weight with me) and to have died, in the midst of the pathless ocean, at a distance from every friend. If my fenses had not failed, I should have died praying, that you might be supported, and the stroke fanctified to you. I wrote a letter to you in my illness (confused as my head was,) when I was not without apprehension, that it would be the last service, my hand would perform for me. But the Lord has been merciful to me: I am not only still living, but perfectly recovered! confider it, as a warning

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St. Kitt's, Sandy Point, 30 Manib bed

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WE arrived here the 21st inft, and I received your dear, obliging letter, of the i6th February. at Mr. Garas, I have not on

Before now, I hope you have received an account, of my celebration of your birth-day, and, the happy consequence of it, the day of our marriage. You fay, you endeavoured to imitate me, on the return of these days, not only in observing them, but in the same manner. My own attempts, are so unsuitable to what I could wish, that I cannot suppose yours inferior to them. I hope you will always copy, after a more perfect pattern. Our prayers have been thus far answered; and I hope, the hour of meeting, is not very diftant. You will be the more fensible of this mercy, when you receive information of my illness, on the passage, and that my life was, for a day or two, thought very dubious, by those about me. My health

was

was restored at sea; but for want of fresh provisions, and proper nourishment, (for I had distributed my stock among the sick seamen, before I was taken ill myself) I continued rather saint and weak; but now, at Mr. G—'s, I have not only necessaries, but delicacies, and allow myself more indulgence than usual, with a view of recruiting.

I am glad you think my picture like me. I cannot persuade myself to think so of yours; yet I frequently look at it, and talk to it, because you sat for it; and I can supply the desects of it, from my mind, where the dear original is painted, or rather engraved, to the greatest exactness. There, I have traces impressed, which no pencil could copy; a lively representation, not only of your person, but of your heart.

Now and then, I have been conftrained to omit our noon-tide appointment; but, in general, I have observed it with much pleasure, and have found it, one of my best alleviations of your absence. At present,

the time falls out with me, about eight in the morning, which is rather inconvenient; but I try to make it up, more or less, through the day; and I believe, that one waking hour of my life, fince I parted with you, has feldom passed, without some breathing of prayer in your behalf.

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Build service is average, or see Mind

Sandy-Point, 7 June.

I have found fewer opportunities of writing, than I expected; but, before the close of this month, I hope to be at fea myself, on my way home. Remember what I have formerly written, upon such occasions, to prevent your uneasiness; or rather, remember what the Lord has written, for our encouragement. When thou passest through the waters, I will be with thee. In all the dangers, and difficulties, that may affect either of us, our God is ever present. May we learn to fanctify him, in our hearts, and to make him our dread,

dread, and we need fear nothing. It is my daily, earnest prayer, that you may find peace and comfort, in his promifes, which are all yea and amen, in Jesus our Redeemer, to them who trust in his atonement, and mediation. If we have him on our fide, nothing can be against us, so as to separate us from his love. Through him, we shall prove more than conquerors. But if we rely on ourfelves, or on any thing elfe, short of that only rock of falvation, we shall be confused and shaken.

The enclosed was written, chiefly, during my fickness, after leaving the coast. I had some expectation, it would have been my last; but God was merciful to me. I defired to live, upon your account, and my defire was granted. At prefent, I am in perfect health, and happy, in the hope of being foon restored to you again.

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Sandy Point, 13 June.

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I HAVE picked up a valuable acquaintance here, of whom I hope to tell you more, foon. I was going to fay, he is one of my stamp; but he is far beyond me, in all that I most desire. I hope his example, and converse, will prove to my advantage. We are always together, when business will permit: and the last fortnight has been the most pleasant time I have fpent, during my absence from you. To be from you, is, indeed, an abatement to every pleasure. But I hope, I make some advance, in submission to the will of God. I have refigned all into his hands, and, while separate from you, that is, from all that I hold dear in this world, I perceive, in some degree, his presence, whose lovingkindness is better than life itself.

A vessel arrived to-day from London, which brought many letters, but none for not fion me. It is no matter. I trust in the Lord, fler telly bons yed, (as I do daily) that every

Spinionida

Letters to in Wife

and this keeps me from uneafiness. I was more afraid than hurt, for want of letters here, last voyage; and I hope, I shall not be weak enough, to grieve again, without just grounds. in all that I most desire. I hope his ex-

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I LEFT St. Kitt's, the 20th inft. and am now, about 600 miles, on my way homewards, in perfect health, and peace.

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ample, and converte, will prove to my ad-

I had a facramental opportunity while there, on Whitfunday, and was glad to embrace it. The service was, indeed, poorly administered, by a man, whose only distinguishing mark of a minister, I believe, was his gown and furplice. But I aimed, to look beyond the man, to the Lord; and hope I received a bleffing. You may be fure, I thought of you upon the occaion. I hoped, that you were engaged, that day, in the same manner; and I earheltly prayed, (as I do daily) that every appointed N 2

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third Voyage to Africa, 1754. 260

appointed mean of grace, may be made effectual to your present comfort, and final falvation. This is the one thing needful which I ask with solicitude. I am more cool, as to our temporal concerns; because I know, we are not competent to choose for ourselves; and, therefore, I am content with begging a bleffing upon them, in general terms; so far as they may most conduce, to the promoting his glory, and our eternal welfare; refigning the particular, to the wife, and merciful disposal of God And I can fay, to his praise, that things never fucceeded more to my mind, that fince I have been taught, to aim at this method. May we be interested in the covenant, which is well ordered, in all points, and fure; and then, both great mercies and fmall mercies, (if any mercies could with propriety, be deemed finall) will be ours of course. Then we need be anxious about nothing; but, as occasions and WHO make known our requests to God; and, what we ask be really good for us, we shall certainly

ment, upon this head, is unanswerable. He that spared not his own son, but delivered him up for us all, how shall he not, with him also, freely give us all things? That powerful love, which brought down the Most High, to assume our nature, to suffer, and to die for us, will not permit those who depend on him, to want what is really good for them.

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to the office that was the At Sea, 6 July.

To-morrow will be a feast-day with you, if, as I hope, you are well. My thoughts and prayers will attend you, at the Lord's table. May you have his prefence and blessing, in all his ordinances! It is my allotment, to be seldom favoured, with the benefit of Christian communion, and public ordinances. But, I thank the Lord, I know that He, who is rich in mercy, is in every place, equally nigh to all N 3 who

make known collection to God, and what we alk we the what we alk he really good for us, we the

who call upon him. Neither in the wilds of Guinea, nor in the pathless ocean, am I wholly without his gracious presence. Yet, were it lawful for me to choose, I would rather be a door-keeper in the house of God, than to dwell in splendour, at a distance from it. However, it is a great satisfaction to me, that you, who are dear to me as my own heart, have always in your power, the privileges, which are but now and then permitted to me.

Two very different errors are frequent, concerning the Lord's supper. The first is, of those who keep away, because, as they say, they are unworthy. If they mean, that they are determined to persist in those courses, which are directly contrary to the design, of our Redeemer's life and death, they certainly have no business at his table. But alas! what will they do, if death should summon them, in this hardened disposition, to his tribunal? But with respect to those, who mourn for their sins, and strive, and pray against them, it is an artistice

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artifice of the tempter, to deter them from the Lord's table, because they are sinners; when it is a fure, and glorious truth, that finners are the very persons invited. The whole need not the Physician, but the All the ordinances, and particularly this, are defigned, to strengthen the weak, to confirm the doubtful, and to raise them that are fallen. Unbelief, and a legal temper, dishonour the gospel, and disquiet the foul; and, indeed, the objection is founded in pride, for they own, that if they were better, as it is called, they would readily attend. But it is best for us, to renounce all feeming good in ourselves, and, as helpless, worthless sinners, to rely wholly on the mercy of God, in Jefus Christ.

There is an opposite error. Many rush upon this facrament, as though it were a mere ceremony; or a civil institution, to qualify for an office; or a sponge, to wipe off their past offences, that they may begin a new score. They have no sense of

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the evil of fin, and, therefore, cannot know their need of a Saviour. But they prefume, that God is merciful, and are quieted. He is, indeed, merciful beyond our conception, and he has shewn himself fo, in the method of reconciliation; but he has declared the way, in which he will shew mercy, and there is no other. For a person to partake of that bread, and of that cup, which exhibit to us the forrows, and fufferings, of the Son of God, for our fins, and yet wilfully to continue, in the practice of those sins, which cost him all his agonies, in the garden, and upon the cross, to expiate; is, as much as in him lies, to crucify the Son of God afresh, and to put him to open shame.

At Sea, 13 July.

Or all the authors I have read, who have occasionally treated of a married life, and of the inadvertencies on both sides, by

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by which it is too often rendered unhappy; I do not remember one, who has touched upon the great evil of all; I mean, our wretched propensity, to lay the foundation of our proposed happiness, independent of God. If we are happy, in a mutual affection, when we fet out, we are too apt to think, that nothing more is wanting; and to fuppose our own prudence, and good judgment, sufficient to carry us on to the end. But that it is not so, in fact, we have daily proof, from the example of numbers, who, notwithstanding a fincere regard to each other, at first, and the advantages of good fense, and good temper, in general, yet, by fome hidden causes, gradually become cool, and indifferent; and, at length, burdenfome, perhaps, hateful to each other. This event is often noticed, and excites furprise, because few can properly account for it. But I fee few marriages commenced, which give me hope of a more favourable iffue.

It is an undoubted truth, that the Most N 5 High

High God, who is ever present with, and over his creatures, is the author, and given of all that is agreeable, or comfortable to us, in this world. We cannot be either easy in our ourselves, or acceptable to others, but by his favour; and, therefore, when we prefume to use his creature comforts, without confulting, and acknowledging him in them, his honour is concerned to disappoint us. Dreaming of fure fatisfaction, in the profecution, or enjoyment, of our own defires, we do but imitate the builders of Babel, who faid, Go to, let us build a tower, to get ourselves a name. So we, too often. when circumftances fmile upon us, vainly think of fecuring happiness upon earth; a fenfual happiness, and on an earth that stands accurfed, and subject to vanity, for our fins. In every flate and scene of life, there are instances of this folly; but perhaps it is, in no one, more infinuating and plaufible, than in the commencement of marriage, between those, whose hearts are united.

united. But alas! God looks down upon fuch short-sighted projectors, as he did upon those of old. He pours contempt upon their designs; he divides their language; he permits separate views and interests to rise in their minds; their fair scheme of happiness degenerates into confusion, and they are left under the reproach, of having begun to build, what they will never be able to finish. This is the true cause, of half the unhappiness complained of, and observed among those, who come together by their own consent. Not for want of good-will at first, nor for want of any necessary qualification in themselves; but because, neglecting to own, and to seek God in their concerns, he has refused them. that bleffing, without which no union can fubfift.

You will not ask me, how we set out, and in what manner, our happy connexion has been conducted. But perhaps you will see much reason to ask, (I am sure I do) why we have succeeded so much better

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than others; and why we, unlike the most of our acquaintance, have preserved our regard unabated, and all our obligations fresh upon our minds, into the middle of our fifth year? I cannot pretend, that it is owing to my being duly dependant, and humble, in afcribing all my bleffings to the Lord; or to my having enjoyed them, with an eye to his glory. (Alas, I have given way to evils, which I knew, I ought to avoid; and have neglected the good, to which my conscience called me.) But it is, because the Lord, in all his dealings with me, has been wonderfully, fingularly, merciful and favourable. By his grace, he brought me from a state of apostasy, to the knowledge of his gospel; and by his good Providence, he has no less diftinguished me in temporals. He brought me, as I may fay, out of the land of Egypt, out of the house of bondage; from slavery and famine, on the coast of Africa, into my present easy situation. And he brought me, from the most abandoned scenes of profligacy,

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profligacy, when I was funk, into a complacency with the vilest wretches; to make me happy, in the possession of your heart, and person. And thus, he has continued to me, in your love, and its endearing confequences, all that I hold valuable in life, for fo many years; though I have not endeavoured, in the manner I ought, to deferve you, for one whole day. Often, the consciousness of my disingenuous behaviour, has made my heart tremble, upon your account. I have feared, left you should be snatched away, for my punishment. But the Lord is God, and not man. As in a thousand instances, so particularly in this, I may well fay, He has not dealt with me, according to my fins, nor rewarded me after my iniquities. He has neither separated us by death, nor involved us in heavy afflictions, nor fuffered our affections to fail. Let us praise him for these three articles, for there is scarcely one couple in a thousand, that is favoured with them all, for an equal space of time. assaum. Mr.

Mr. Addison has treated with propriety. on the want of complaifance, the improper freedoms, and feveral other failings, which, though, feemingly, of no great immediate importance themselves, may, in time, give rife to ferious, and abiding difgusts. The faults which he mentions, are to be guarded against; but to attend to these only, will not be sufficient. Philosophy, and reasoning, have their use; but religion alone can teach us, how to use the good things of this world, without abusing them; and to make our earthly comforts, bleffings indeed; by improving them to a farther view; by tracing them, as streams,. to their fountain; by extending our views, from time to eternity; and making our mutual affection, a mean, of raifing our desires to the great Lord of all. But herein, alas! I have greatly failed hitherto. And perhaps this is the reason, why I am to long, and to often, separated from you. I now fee, that I may number it, among my greatest mercies, that I was not permitted

mitted to remain always at home with you. Perhaps, by this time, I might have been hardened, into an entire neglect of my duty to God, and my most effential duty to you. But, by being forced to leave you, again and again, I have had opportunity, and leifure, for reflection, and, I would hope, at length, for repentance. You have been much mistaken, in your opinion of me. Your kind partiality has thought me very good, when, indeed, I have been very bad; very infensible, and ungrateful, not only to God, but even to you. I have not properly answered, the trust you have reposed in me; but, I hope, I shall be enabled to amend.

You fay, you fometimes shew my letters. Though most of them are in an unfashionable strain, I am not very folicitous who may fee them. I write from my heart; from a heart, that is not ashamed (excepting as I have acknowledged above) in any thing relating to you. A heart, dy same three sensors are a char

that hardly beats, but in concert to fome earnest wish for your welfare. A heart; that always feels the fmallest instance of your kindness. A heart, that would give up every pleafure, this world can afford, rather than lose the joy it feels in being yours, and that you own an interest in it. A heart, that would welcome any temporal troubles, that might be a mean of final good to you.-Thus far I can go.-There was a time, when I could have gone farther. Do not think my love impaired, because I now defire to stop here. There was a time, (what a mercy, that the Lord did not tear my idol from me) when you had that place in my heart, which is only due to him, and I regarded you as my chief good. But I hope that time is past; and never did I wish so earnestly, for the first proofs of your affection, as I do now, that you may be enabled to restrain it within due bounds; and that your regard may not prevent you, from confidering me as a frail, poor, mutable creature, unable of myself, tio Y

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myfelf, to procure you any real good, or to shield you from the smallest evil. Oh, may we adore him, who provided us for each other; who brought us together, and has spared us so long! May we love each other till death, yea, I hope, in a future state, beyond death ! And, in order to this, may we, in the first place, love him with all our heart, and foul, and ftrength, who first loved us, and gave himself for us, to renew our forfeited title, to the good things of both worlds, and to wash us from our fins, in his own blood. This was love indeed! Where were the sensibility, and ingenuousness of spirit, which we sometimes think we possess, that this unspeakable lover of fouls, has been no more noticed, no more admired, and beloved, by us hitherto. Lord! make us partakers of thy divine nature, for thou art Love ! Therefore de l'ordina ha les es pour

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bob o You will observe, I have of late made an alteration in my post-days. Inflead of a few lines, two or three times a week, I now write a whole sheet every Saturday; and in the choice of a subject, I have an eye to the fervice of the following day. Thus I indulge my inclination in writing to you, without breaking the rule I have, for some time past, prescribed to myfelf: the forenoon of Saturday, I allow for relaxation; but when I have dined, if no necessary business prevents me, I endeavour to abstract my mind from worldly concerns, and to prepare for the approaching fabbath.

I now mean to give you fome account, how I pass a Sea-Sunday, when I am favoured with a tolerable frame of mind, and am enabled, by the grace of God, to obtain Some tolerable mastery over the incumbrances of the flesh, and the world, which, atrib.

in my best hours, are too prevalent with me.

My evening devotions, when opportunity permits, commence about fix o'clock, the week, and the month round; and I am, fometimes, engaged a full hour, or more, in prayer and praise, without any remarkable weariness, or repetition. You furnish me with much subject for both. On a Saturday evening, in particular, I beg a bleffing upon your Sunday, upon your public worship, and retirement. And as I know, that where you are, you are unavoidably exposed to trifling company, to whom all days are alike, I pray, that you may be shielded from their evil influence. I have likewise to pray for others; for our friends; for many of them by name, and according to the knowledge I have of their circumstances; and extend my petitions to the general state of the world, that they who are strangers to the gospel, in which I have found fo much peace, may be brought to the knowledge of it; and that

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that they who neglect, and despise it, as I once did, may, like me, obtain mercy. When these, and other points, are gone over, and my praises offered, for our temporal and spiritual blessings, and likewise, my repeated confessions of the sins of my childhood, youth, and advanced years, as they occur to my remembrance, you will not wonder, that an hour is elapsed. The remainder of the evening, I pass in ruminating on the mercies of the preceding week; the subjects of my reading, or whatever I can pick useful self-conference from.

I usually rise at four, on a Sunday morning. My first employ, is to beg a bleffing upon the day, for us both; for all, who, like you, are preparing to wait upon God in public, and for all, who, like myself, are, for a time, excluded from that privilege. To this, succeeds a serious walk upon deck. Then I read two or three select chapters. At breakfast, I eat and drink, more than I talk; for I have no one here, to join in such conversation, as I should then

then choose. At the hour of your going to church, I attend you in my mind, with another prayer; and at eleven o'clock, the thip's bell rings my own little congregation about me. To them I read the morning fervice, according to the Liturgy. Then I walk the deck, and attend my observation, as we call it; that is, to know, by the fun, (if it shines) at noon, the latitude the ship is in. Then comes dinner. In the afternoon, I frequently take a nap, for half an hour; if not, I read, or write in a book, I keep for that purpose. I wait upon you again to church, in the afternoon, and convene my ship's company, as in the morning. At four o'clock, I drink tea, which recruits my spirits for the evening. Then another scripture lesson, and a walk, brings fix o'clock, which, I have told you, is my hour for stated prayer. I remember you then again, in the most particular manner, and, in trust that you are still preserved in fasety, for me, I endeayour

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vour to praise the Lord for his goodness, fo long vouchfafed to us.

But alas, when I look back, upon a day spent in this manner, I cannot express how much I have to mourn over, and be ashamed of, at night. Oh! the wanderings, and faintness, of my prayers; the distraction of my thoughts; the coldness of my heart, and the fecret workings of pride, which debase, and corrupt, my best fervices. In short, every thing is wrong, But I remember, that I am not under the law, but under grace. I rely on the promised mediation of my Saviour; renounce my own poor performances, and implore mercy, in his name, and for his fake only, and that fets all to rights. I need no one to pronounce an absolution to me; I can tell myself, that my fins are forgiven me, because I know in whom I have believed. This leads me to praise and adore him, that I was born in an age, and country, favoured with the light of the gospel; when there are millions of my species, who have

have neither the means of grace, nor the hope of glory; and farther, that I have been called out, from the unhappy apoltaty, and licentiousness, and misery, into which I had plunged myself; when many thousands, who never offended to the degree I have, are either suffered to go on, from bad to worse, till there is no hope, or are cut off by a stroke, and sink into endless misery, in a thoughtless moment! Lord, not unto me, but unto Thee be the praise. It was wholly the effect of thy grace; for thou would'st be found of me, when I had not the least inclination to seek thee!

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Though I have given you this account, chiefly of my passing a Sunday, it will in the main, serve for the history of any day, in any week, since I lest St. Christopher's. It is thus I am enabled, ardently as I love you, to support your absence, without impatience; though a re-union to you, such as our two former, includes all I can wish, as to temporals. And I trust, he who has brought me safely, over two thirds of the ocean,

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ocean, that was lately between us, will do the rest, in his own good hour. And, in the mean while, blessed be his name, my time does not hang heavy upon my hands. I trust you choose him for your portion also. Thus we shall bear separation better, and be more happy when together, than formerly. And when we are called finally to part, (as, sooner or later, we must) He will strengthen us, according to the day of our trouble, and will assuredly unite us again, to unspeakable advantage; and place us beyond the reach, of every trial, and every evil.

At Sea, 3 August.

now within a day's fail of Ireland; and I may hope, (if the fair wind continues) to fee Liverpool within a week. My passage thus far, like all the passages I have made, since you have owned an interest in me, has

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has been remarkably exempted from difagreeable events, and apparent dangers. As I hope I shall not have occasion to fend you another weekly sheet, before I see you, I would employ this, on a closing invitation, to join with me, in praising the great Author of all Good, for his numerous, and repeated mercies, and bleffings, vouchfafed to us both. And the rather, at prefent, as this day will conclude another year of my life. How much reason have I to fay, with David, O Lord, thou crownest the year with thy goodness.

We are never in a better disposition, to ask, and obtain, further favours from the Lord, than when our hearts are impressed, with a grateful fense of those, we have already received. We have, indeed, reason to praise him, above many; for his dispenfations to us, have been fingularly favourable. His goodness has been manifested, from the first moments of our life; yea, fill more early, from the circumstances of VOL. I.

our birth. It was by the ordination of his kind providence, that we were born in an age, and land, of light and liberty, and not among the millions, who have no knowledge of the means of grace, or of the hope of glory; nor among the multitudes, who are trained up, from their cradles, to substitute superstition for religion. But I shall defer speaking of spiritual mercies, till I have said something of our temporal blossess.

Perhaps we have fometimes been tempted to think, that, because we do not possess titles and estates, and are not of high distinction, and estimation, in the world, we have received nothing extraordinary; but two reslections will, I hope, suffice to correct this mistake.

Let us, in the first place, think of the miseries we know, or observe, in the world. How many are crippled, or maimed, in their bodies, or disordered in their minds? How many, at this minute, are nearly perishing, through extreme want of the common

common necessaries of life? How many are chained to their beds, by sickness, and excruciating pains, and can find no eafe by day, or by night? not to infift on the more deplorable case of those, who are suffering the agonies of a wounded spirit, or a terrified conscience. Let us reflect on the miseries and outrages, which the scourge of war, brings upon cities, provinces, and whole nations. Or, if those scenes are too shocking to dwell upon it will suffice, to take the estimate much lower. Let us look round us at home, amongst our own acquaintance, or, at farthest, within the bounds of the newspapers. How many fatherless-how many widows, do we hear of? How many, from happy prospects, rendered fuddenly miferable, by what we call casualties? Take these things together, and let us ask our consciences, if a continued exemption, from fuch a variety of evils, and a constant supply of the many wants, we have in common with others,

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are not favours which we enjoy, and which are afforded, comparatively to few?

But farther, let us, in the second place, turn our eyes to those who are placed in the fmoother walks of life, whom customary speech calls the bappy. Run over what you know of those, who are most noticed for perfonal qualifications, for their riches, honours, or the variety of their means, and modes, of pleafure: and then, let us alk ourfelves, if the is a sone amongst all these, with whom we would be content to change, in all points? If we should not accept such a proposal, as furely we should not, (I anfwer for you, no less confidently, than for myfelf) it follows evidently, that we have more to be thankful for, (our own partial selves being judges) than many of those, whom, perhaps, we have been disposed to envy, and if fo, it is equally plain, that there are no two persons, upon the face of the earth, more indebted to an indulgent Providence than ourselves. pop good eleeman

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If I mention particulars, I must begin, with what I have most at heart, our mutual, happy affection. In this, at least, we are rich; and this is a kind of wealth, with which, gold and filver will bear no comparison; nor would many cart loads of them, purchase a single grain of so great a bleffing. But let us not ascribe this to ourselves. How manifest, how powerful, and marvellous, was the hand of God, in bringing us together! For myfelf, I have reason to say, (as you well know) that never was attempt of the kind successful, under greater improbabilities; and yet, so peculiar was our turn, that, had we missed each other, perhaps there was not one of each fex, in the kingdom, that could have made us fo entirely happy. Then, after marriage, it was not impossible for us, more than others, to decline into that fatiety, and indifference, so much complained of, and so often observed. If we had funk no lower, than into a cold esteem, a fort of mechanical good will, the world 03 might

might have judged charitably, that we were well matched; but we could not have been able to write, to speak, to look, and to feel, as we do now. But farther, when all that we do possess was granted, we might still have been unhappy, without the especial protection of God. We were liable to fickness, death, and a variety of distresses, which, if they had not impaired our love, would have made it productive of more pain than pleasure. But, in this respect, we have been no less distinguished, than in the rest. I can give you no idea of the many evils, and dangers, which furrounded me, in my two last voyages; nor can I recount, how many fell beside me, and at my right hand, who had equal profpects, better constitutions, and, perhaps, fuperior skill. But this was not all, nor even half, for I found, upon my return, that my dearest M- was still preserved to me, and had always the fatisfaction to meet you, in the most agreeable manner I could

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could wish. And I have been conducted towards you thus far, in safety, the third time, and my hopes still flourish.

To the prime article, What we are to each other, many may be added, which, though fubordinate, are very valuable. The union, and harmony, of every branch of our family; an easy, sufficient way of life, creditable and decent, if not splendid. But want of room prevents me from enlarging on these items, and from the mention of several more; for I am not willing to fill the sheet, with what relates merely to this transitory state. The bleffings I have recounted, are in themselves great; but when compared with the views, and hopes, revealed to us by the gospel, they sink at once in their importance, and become, any farther than subservient to our spiritual interest, less than nothing, and vanity. All advantages of this kind, might have been permitted us, for the term of a frail life, and yet we might have lived and died, and aid to afterno 10 4 751 aid ftrangers

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strangers to God, and to true peace; nay, we certainly should, had we been lest to ourselves.

Let us, therefore, praise the mercy, and goodness, of God, for conveying to us all his gifts, in the channel of redeeming love; and for leading us to build our hopes, upon the mediation of our Lord Jesus Chrift, who, by being made a curfe for us, and dying upon the cross, has taken out that curfe, and evil, which the transgression of our first parents, had entailed upon the whole lower creation. Let us praise the Lord, that though he has bleffed us, with fo much of our hearts defire; he has enabled us to hope, that he has not appointed us all our portion of good in this life. Let us rejoice, not merely is our comforts upon earth, but rather, in the trust we have, that our names are written in heaven. Let us receive our Lord's gifts with thankfulness, and improve them to his service; and may they be doubly welcome to us, as tokens of his love, and earnests of his farther 0

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ther gracious designs, in our favour. And Oh! may the consciousness of our past neglect, and our unsuitable returns, for all his benefits, inspire us with redoubled diligence and care, for the future; and engage us in a humble, and daily application, to our great Surety, who has undertaken to pay all our debts. And may you, my dearest M. appear to-morrow at his table, with thefe views, acknowledging that our talents have been all of his bounty, and the abuse of them, yours and mine, and all that we can properly call our own. May your confessions end in peace, and your forrow terminate in joy, in receiving the pledges of his dying love. You will remember me, and I shall endeavour to be with you in spirit and I trust, on the next facrament day, I shall accompany you in person; and before that time, I hope we shall be permitted, with one heart, and one voice, to praise the Lord, our light and strength, and salvation, who holds our fouls in peace, and fuffers not our feet to 0 5 be

be moved. O Lord, thou hast dealt wonderfully with us, therefore will we exalt thy glorious name!

I am unalterably yours.

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Liverpool, 11 August.

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My last, just informed you, of my arrival here, in health and peace. I can tell you little more at present. I lived almost without sleep, nearly a week before we came in, and my head, and thoughts, are not yet quite settled.

It is not at present determined, whether you or I, must remove from where we are; if you receive this without a postscript, you may expect me. I shall be clear of my ship African, in too days. I have quitted her, because she is such a heavy sailer. But there is another, that was born (launched) the same day with her, which I may have if I please, and probably I shall not resule her, though I know not what to do with her at present. My judge

ment tells me, that it would be better to fail fix months hence, and I have almost induced M. M., to think as I do. And yet I fear, he suspects that I start objections, that I may have the more time to pass with you. I wish he could know, the peculiar turn of my love, and he would fully acquit me of fuch a charge. It is true indeed, were I master of a small independency, though but a fmall one, I should glory in avowing, that nothing, which the mercenary world calls advantage-not a large heap of yellow counters. -fhould bribe me to the necessity, of being so long, and so far, from my dearest M. For, when I confider myfelf only, I know, and feel, that the price of a kingdom, would poorly pay me for your abfence. But when I think of you, as unprovided for, and liable to I know not what, if any thing should befal me; and still more, that your defire of making me happy, was the occasion of your being in this precarious state; I almost grudge 06 every JUO

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every hour, in which I am not fome way engaged for your interest. I should be ashamed to be long at home when your concerns require me abroad. However, I aim to fubmit every thing, to the disposal of that all-wife Providence, on which I am permitted to depend, and by which I never was, nor can be disappointed. I have many reasons, for desiring a little time with you, if it will fuit my bufiness; if otherwise, I have one reason against it, that outweighs them all, The fense of what I owe to you. I confidered, before we married, what must be the consequence, on my fide; I joyfully accepted the terms, with all disadvantages : and, I thank God, I never yet repented, or thought for a moment, that I could either bear, or forbear, too much, while you were my motive, and reward. old if bas and believe u

If you ask, how I pass my time here it I answer, that if an assemblage of all I can wish for, could satisfy me, without your company, I need not set my soot out of Liverpool; yet if I did not keep a ftrict watch over my heart, I should be uneasy, and impatient amidst all; and more to here than elfewhere, for every thing I fee, reminds me, that you were with me last year. The war and their transconverse

Warrington, 18 August.

I AM thus far, on my return from Manchester, and thus far, on my way from Liverpool to London; and hope to be with you on Friday. You must prepare for another journey, for I promised to return within a month. Mr. M-, in his usual manner, talks of having the ship at fea in fix weeks; but I believe it will be near twelve before all is ready. I have procured, for my new ship, the name of the Bee; both for shortness, and significancy. I could comment a good while upon the word Bee, and talk about the sting, and the honey; but I forbear, as we hope fo foon to meet. I am A to the deal and

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I make this a day of rest, for I think it not right to travel on a Sunday, without a more urgent necessity, than I can plead at present. But it has been a cold, unfruitful day. It must be so at times, while I am encumbered with the world, and the flesh. But I am fomething enlivened, by the receipt of yours, of the 14th. Like Heze. kiah, I fpread the letter before the Lord. But my circumstances are very different from his: Instead of complaining of enemies, my joyful errand to his mercy-feat, is, to praise him for his goodness; for the confirmation of your health, and peace, and for the happy prospect, of being soon with you! grived to added to nome of bold

The last week I was at sea, was no less stormy with us, than with you; and befides the many invisible, and unheeded evils, from which we were preserved, we were twice in imminent, apparent danger, and never more so, than for two or three hours before we arrived at I verpool. Let these instances confirm you in the persuasion,

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perfuafion, that storms and calms are equally safe, to those who trust in the God of the fea, and the dry land. He fometimes gives me a view of impending harm, to te ch me, that I am infufficient to my own fafety. But when deliverance is feafonable, and necessary, I find it always at hand. Had the winds, and weather, during the whole passage, been at my own choice, I could not have gained my port, in a more satisfactory manner, or in a better hour, than I did. I had the pleasure of returning thanks, in all the churches, for an African voyage performed, without any difaster, or the loss of a single man, (for captain L. was fixed in another veffel, fome time before his death.) This was much noticed, and spoken of, in the town, and I believe, it is the first instance of the kind. ent. Jugar into the

No part of your letter pleases me so much, a that, where you tell me, you can sincerely any The will of the Lord be done. To find us both proficients in this temper, would would rejoice me more, than the expectation of passing many winters at home; and yet, I think I should not undervalue, a single hour of your company. But I consider, that in a few winters and sum era more, all our endeared hours, will be as though they had never been; but the effects, and consequences, of our temporary connection, will abide for ever.

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N. B. When I returned to Liverpool, and was upon the point of failing in the Bee, it pleased God to stop me by illness. By the advice of the physicians, I resigned the command of the ship; and was thus, unexpectedly freed, from the disagreeable, and (as I now see it) the abominable employment, and traffic, in which I had been engaged. So that my marine correspondence ends here.

My first attack, was a violent he, which threatened immediate death, and left me

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no figns of life, but breathing, for about an hour. I foon gow better; but the fudden stroke, made such an impression upon my dear wife, that it cost her, more than a twelvemonth's fevere illness. My friend, Mr. M-, procured me a place in the Custom-house; and when I was constrained to return, to take possession of my office, she had been but a few days a little revived, from a state, in which the physicians had given up all hope of her recovery. The fecond feries of my letters were written, while I was Tide-furveyor of the port of Liverpool.

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Third Verge to Jesie, 1754. 3, 305
no figns of Jife, but be whing, for above to hour. I food a secret but the ferror apon my hear wife, that it coft her, more than a derestion, that it coft her, more than a ferror and secret like is. My friend, his secret is and when was contrained by the boule; and when was contrained no return, to figure of bearing on of march confined from a set. Color of her recovery. The ferror are firm a set. Color of her recovery. The ferror of the ferror was sentent of the ferror of the ferror was sentent of the ferror was sentent of the ferror of the ferror was sentent.

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